

# South Dakota Bird Notes

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION  
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Whole No. 109

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—Photo Courtesy of Willis Hall

Le Conte's Sparrow

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# President's Page

Spring is always a period of heavy traffic in birds, with our winter birds going north, and our migrant and summer residents arriving from the south. What amazes me is how every bird seems to know the right time to go.

This year, however, the birds appeared at odd times or in few numbers. For example, the juncoes and Tree Sparrows left in March instead of the usual March and April dates. The robins and black-birds arrived at the normal time, but the sparrows and warblers were late. From my banding records it can be seen that the 1976 winter migrants moved through chiefly in March, while, interestingly, they all went through in April in 1975. During most years, about equal numbers of the winter birds moved north in March and April.



Banding Records for Junco, Tree Sparrow, and Redpoll:

	Average (4 yrs.)	1975	1976
March	139	0	359
April	148	365	41

What is the reason for the early migration of the winter birds? Is it the warm March weather, or the lack of heavy snow cover in the north country? The amount of spring flooding on the Souris River is usually a good indication of north country snow pack; ironically, however, this year there was heavy flooding on the Souris.

The sparrows, which were about a week late, were abundant in number and variety. The following are some of the highlights of the sparrow migration. The Harris' Sparrow was exceptionally

abundant this spring, with almost three times (130 vs. an average of 47) as many banded in the same period as in past years. The Clay-colored Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow also seemed to be up in numbers this spring. However, the White-throated Sparrow seemed low in numbers.

The warblers were also slow in coming back and were rather low in numbers as of mid-May. Orange-crowned Warblers, Black and White Warblers, Tennessee Warblers, and Yellow Warblers seemed very low in numbers or were exceptionally late in arriving.

Change in daylight, of course, is the most important factor in determining the migration of birds, but food and temperature will cause small variations in pattern. What causes the decline in numbers in some species? Where have they gone? Are they following new migration routes, or is it just a normal population fluctuation, with this year being an ebb? More alarming, has an environmental change reduced the population? Do people in other areas experience the same results, or is it just characteristic of this area? Time will tell.

Finally, when you read this, our spring meeting will be over, and you who have missed it will have missed a chance to evaluate bird numbers, confirm observations, and exchange information with birders from other areas. Also, it is just fun to get together to enjoy the beautiful hills, the birds, flowers, and scenery, and break out of the winter doldrums. It is an adventure to seek the Three-toed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Pinyon Jay, and who knows what evasive bird will turn up. When next spring turns up, you turn out and be prepared to turn on for a happy experience at the SDOU meeting.

# A Raptor Survey and Trapping Techniques in Clay County, South Dakota

By Paul E. Bartelt and Curtiss J. Orde

This project was initiated to determine (a) the species and numbers of raptors passing through the Vermillion, South Dakota area, (b) the preferred habitat of migrating raptors, and (c) the most successful techniques for trapping raptors. Various studies (Berger and Mueller, 1959; Berger and Hamerstrom, 1962; Meng., 1971) have reported the efficiencies of raptor traps, sometimes comparing the efficiencies of two or more for reasons of different type of bait and/or construction. This study reports the bait, trap, and habitat combination which was most successful in trapping migratory raptors in the Vermillion, South Dakota area with no intention of challenging the aforementioned studies.

The actual observations and trapping of raptors were carried out along the Vermillion River and along Clay Creek ditch in southeastern Clay County, South Dakota in the fall of 1975. The area is primarily agricultural—producing corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. There are also cattle pastures and feeder lots and some land that remains fallow. Trees and woodlots are restricted to riverbottom-flood plain areas and near farms. The climatic factors varied from warm sunny days to snowy and freezing drizzle; these factors had a bearing on the migration of raptors throughout the study area.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The two general types of traps used in this study were the Bal-chatri as described by Berger and Mueller (1959) and modified by Berger and Hamerstrom (1962) and a slightly modified Swedish Goshawk trap as described by Meng (1971). Modifications of the

Swedish Goshawk trap consisted of using 1½" gill netting to cover the doors and end panels, and ¾" black nylon netting to cover the bait cages instead of wire mesh. The authors thought that the nylon would absorb some of the shock of an attacking raptor, and possibly help prevent injury to the raptors feet. Unfortunately, over a period of approximately one week, the strength of the steel door springs, both on the same side, warped the trap doors and created a gap of nearly six inches at the opposite side. This gap allowed the escaping of one raptor (witnessed by Donald Peterson), and possibly two more. This problem was corrected by moving one spring to the opposite side of the trap, but no raptors were trapped after that, and the modified trap was never tripped. A third modified version of the Bal-chatri was used. It was constructed of ¼" mesh hardware cloth and was rectangular (10" x 4' x 4") with a piece of hardware cloth attached to the bottom for stability (Ward and Martin, 1968).

Two types of bait were used: avian and mammalian. Pigeons and mice, respectively, were used almost exclusively since these were the most easily obtained. One starling was used for five days since it was inadvertently caught while obtaining pigeons. A single pigeon was placed in the modified Bal-chatri traps, and one or two mice were placed in both the regular Bal-chatri and the rectangular model. Bait prey were fed and watered at least once a day.

The traps were placed in a variety of habitats (see Table 2). Three separate trapping areas were utilized consecutively: (1) 3.5 miles north and 5.5

TABLE 1. Trapping success according to habitat and bait types.

TRAP TYPE	BAIT TYPE	HABITAT TYPE	TRAPS	TRAP HOURS	NO. AND SPECIES
Bal-chatri	starling	woods-field edge	1	60	
	mice	creek-field edge	1	60	
		road ditch	2	36	
		pasture fence row	1	240	1 Long-eared Owl 1 Red-tailed Hawk
	pigeons	creek-field edge	3	588	
		alfalfa field	3	888	2 Red-tailed Hawks 1 Cooper's Hawk 3 Great Horned Owls+
		cornfield	2	120	
		tall grass flood plain	3	468	
		pasture fence row	2	912	1 Red-tail escaped
Swedish Goshawk	pigeons	alfalfa field	1	72	
		woods-field edge	2	1224	1 Great Horned Owl escaped before banding
Totals				4668	8 banded 2, possibly 5, escaped before capture and banding

+considered to be a resident species (Bent, 1937)

TABLE 2. Trapping success and weather patterns.

TRAP	BAIT	HABITAT	WEATHER CONDITIONS	SPECIES	AGE	DATE
Bal-chatri	mice	pasture, fence row	partly cloudy N 0-10 near 50 degrees F	Long-eared Owl	HY	Nov. 3, 1975
			clear, sunny N-NW 0-8 near 70 degrees F	Red-tailed Hawk	AHY	Nov. 1, 1975
			clear, sunny N-NW 0-8 near 70 degrees F	Red-tail escaped before banding		Nov. 3, 1975
	pigeons	alfalfa field	clear, sunny N-NW 0-15 near 70 degrees F	Red-tail Hawk	HY	Sept. 13, 19 5
			clear, sunny N-NW 0-20 near 70 degrees F	Red-tail Hawk	HY	Oct. 6, 19 5
			clear, sunny N-NW 0-10 near 70 degrees F	Great Horned Owl	HY	Oct. 2, 1975
			warm, overcast S-SW 20 mph	Great Horned Owl	AHY	Nov. 18, 1975
cold, rain W-SW near 40 degrees F	Great Horned Owl	AHY	Nov. 19, 1975			
sunny, windy N 40 mph near 40 degrees F	Cooper's Hawk	ASY	Nov. 12, 1975			
Swed sh Goshawk	pigeons	woods-f:eld edge	clear, sunny N-NW	Great Horned Owl escaped be- fore banding		Nov. 17, 1975



—Photo Courtesy of C. Orde

## Curtiss Orde with Red-tailed Hawk

miles west of Vermillion, (2) 5 miles north and 1.5 miles east of Vermillion, and (3) 4.5 miles north and 1.5 miles east of Vermillion.

Limited time did not allow constant observation of baited traps from a blind; thus, they were checked twice daily: between 0900-1000 and 1630-1730. Raptors trapped were freed from the trap, banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife bands, and released. Data such as age, health, and injury were noted.

An average of 11:08 hours of daylight per day occurred throughout the period of the study. Since most diurnal raptors begin hunting before sunrise, as observed during research this past summer, 12 hours of effective trapping time per day was used. Only one of the migratory raptors trapped was a nocturnal species (Long-eared Owl), and may have been trapped at night since it

was recovered during morning; this one trapping was not considered significant to increase the effective trapping time since all other migratory raptors were diurnal hawks.

### RESULTS

The data is summarized in Tables 1-3. A total of 16 Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), one Swainson's Hawk (*B. swainsoni*), and 34 American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) were observed during the study while 3 Red-tailed Hawks, one Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), and one Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) were trapped. Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) were observed and trapped, but not considered in this paper since they are non-migratory (Bent, 1937). A number of associates reported that the number of hawks observed flying near Springfield, South Dakota (ap-

proximately 60 miles west of Vermillion) was noticeably greater. Therefore, it is probably more valid to say the migrating hawks were choosing routes which bypassed the Vermillion area, rather than to say the migratory raptor population was low this fall.

The trapping and banding occurred during 59 days for a total of 708 hours, and yielded five migratory raptors. One Red-tailed Hawk was observed as it escaped and was not banded. Most of the raptors were banded in November (Table 2), an expected fact as most migratory raptors have their heaviest migrations from October to early December (Moorman, 1969). Most were banded in alfalfa fields and field edges (Table 1).

Twice the number of raptors were trapped with pigeons than by mice (Table 1), but when one considers that trap hours recorded for pigeons were eight times that for mice, the difference in numbers trapped is probably not significant, and may even tend to indicate a superiority of mice over pigeons as bait prey.

Bal-chatri traps were more successful than Swedish Goshawk traps, and were responsible for all raptors banded (Tables 1 and 2). This was due partially to the construction and fewer number of Swedish Goshawk traps used.

Table 3 summarizes observations of flying migratory raptors made while on the road checking traps.

#### DISCUSSION

Two general factors very likely influenced the types of species and numbers of individual raptors which were trapped and/or observed: (1) environmental parameters (extrinsic), (2) bait types and possibly the different trap types (intrinsic). These will be discussed separately.

Conditions such as (1) weather patterns, (2) prey availability, and (3) human activity appeared to be the most



—Photo by C. Orde

### Long-eared Owl

important external parameters during this study. There was one week (October 6 - October 12) of ideal weather patterns during the entire study. Unfortunately, this was the period when both participants were, by necessity, away from the study area. Therefore, we did not observe a "heavy" migration through the Vermillion area at any time during the course of the project. It is interesting to note, however, that a majority of the birds trapped were captured on days when the winds were from the north-northwest and the velocity was 0-20 miles per hour.

Within the habitats, available prey presumably was such that the raptors were well fed and were not likely to strike prey in the traps. A Peterson Index by Curt Orde (M.A., 1976) indicated an



TABLE 3. Observations with weather patterns.

DATE	WEATHER CONDITIONS	NO. & SPECIES <sup>1</sup>	WHERE OBSERVED <sup>2</sup>
9-13--9-14	clear, sunny N-NW 0-15	3 Red-tail Hawks olus one trapped	A
9-16--9-17	rain and windy S-SW 0-15 gusts to 30	None	
9-19--9-24	clear to partly cloudy S-SW windy	3 Red-tail Hawks (2 ad., 1 imm.) 24 Kestrel	B
9-25--9-27	sunny to overcast SW breeze	4 Red-tail Hawks 10 Kestrels	A
9-28	cold, clear	1 Swainson Hawk	A
9-29--10-1		no bait prey	
10-2--10-6	clear, sunny N-NW 10-20	6 Red-tail plus 1 Red-tail trapped 1 G.H. Owl trapped	A
10-7--10-12		study participants absent from area	

<sup>1</sup>  
all recorded sightings represent separate individuals

<sup>2</sup>  
A--3.5 N, 5.5 SW of Vermillion  
B--5 N, 1.5 E of Vermillion  
C--4.5 N, 1.5 E of Vermillion

abundance of small rodents during the summer of 1975. The fall carry-over may also have been sufficient to meet the needs of the migrating raptors; hence, this fact may account for few raptors captured.

The majority of the birds captured were HY or AHY. With the abundant natural prey available, the easy catch of obvious prey may have been irresistible to these inexperienced and-or-very hungry birds.

Human activity (farming, hunting, etc.) may have frightened away some of the migrating birds. Man's influence is a necessary consideration in the welfare of raptors. Five traps were stolen during the course of the study. Call (1968) found some of his trapped birds shot during a winter study in Clay County. We assume, therefore, that some trapped raptors were destroyed with our stolen traps.

The migration routes of a large number of birds, including raptors, have been known for many years and are available in various sources (Bent, 1937; Robbins, et al., 1966; Pettingill, 1970). The general habitat of the geographic region, as well as the smaller habitats of the study area, will influence the occurrence of migrating raptors. The same applies to food preference and habits of raptors (Bent, 1937; Craighead and Craighead, 1956; Meng, 1959; Rudebeck, 1950, 1953).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# **SDOU Fall Meeting**

**November 5-6-7, 1976**

## **Headquarters**

Center for Continuing Education, Pugsley Center, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

## **TENTATIVE PROGRAM**

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

7:30 p.m.—Registration

8:00 p.m.—Dr. N.R. Whitney will present slides taken on his trip to South Africa.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

7:00 a.m.—Field trip (weather permitting).

9:30 a.m.—Registration, coffee.

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.—Paper Session.

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.—Paper Sessions and Business Meeting.

6:00 p.m.—Banquet and special programs.

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

Paper Sessions or Field Trips.

## **Accommodations**

Holiday Inn and Staurolite Motel, on Brookings exit of Interstate Highway 29; Super 8 Motel, on U.S. Highway 14, two blocks west of Main St., Melinda Motel, 144 Main Ave. South.

## **Call For Papers**

Those who plan to present papers at the November meeting should notify Mrs. David J. Holden, Route 4, Box 68, Brookings 57006, or Mrs. Richard Edie, Route 2, Bruce 57220, by September 10, 1976.

# Winter Records

1 December 1975—31 March 1976

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

Much of South Dakota had snow cover and cold temperatures during December and January, but there were no severe blizzards. February was unusually mild, with exceptionally early waterfowl migrations; colder temperatures returned for awhile in March. Dry conditions were common throughout the state at the end of the period; in many areas the snow was not sufficient for the run-off needed for the marshes, sloughs and dams.

Northern finches and raptors were present in small numbers in most areas; redpolls were common everywhere. Several flocks of American Robins were observed throughout the winter. Unusual records included the Virginia Rail and Long-billed Marsh Wren in Jones County, and the Red-headed Woodpecker in Gregory County.

The dams on the Missouri River and the power plant cooling ponds are now providing open waters that are attracting large numbers of waterfowl, along with some other species that were never found here in winter in earlier years. An interesting example in this report is the Wilson's Phalarope.

The following records, in most cases, give the date and county for observations; the number of individuals, enclosed in parenthesis; and the initials of the observer or reporter.

## 1975-1976 Winter Records

### WATERFOWL

- Pied-billed Grebe—1-11 (1) Missouri R., Pierre, RLH; 2-26 (1) Gavin's Pt. YBC.  
Great Blue Heron—1-24 (1) Missouri R. near Pickstown, Chas. Mix Co., KE.

Whistling Swan—(2) wintered on open water at Big Stone L., Grant Co., BKH.

Trumpeter Swan—1-9 (139) Lacreek N.W.R., HB.

Canada Goose—(75) wintered on Big Stone L., BKH; 12-15 (2400), 1-9 (1370), 2-4 (1650) Lacreek N.W.R., HB; 1-24 (2000) near Lake Andes, Chas. Mix Co., KE.

Mallard—12-5 (100) feeding in stubble field, Clay Co., KJH; (90) wintered on Big Stone L., Grant Co., BKH; 12-15 (2150), 1-9 (2000), 1-28 (1900) Lacreek N.W.R., HB; (500) wintered at Big Stone Power Plant, Grant Co., KFH; 12-24 (2800), 1-22 (2800), 2-11 (9800) Gavin's Pt., YBC; 1-24 (3000) Lake Andes, Chas. Mix Co., KE.

Black Duck—1-9 (1), 2-3 (5) Gavin's Pt., YBC.

Gadwall—12-26 to 3-19 (av. 16) wintered at Rapid City, JLM, NRW.

Pintail—1-9 (3) Lacreek N.W.R., HB; 1-10 (1) Yankton area, YBC.

Green-winged Teal—1-9 (1) Lacreek N.W.R., HB.

American Wigeon—12-13 (6) Custer Co., JLM.

Lesser Scaup—12-2 (2), 2-14 (1) wintered at Rapid City, BHAS.

Common Goldeneye—12-1 to 2-29 (av. 16) wintered at Rapid City, JLM, EMS; 12-20 (2) Big Stone City, BKH; 12-25 (16), 1-10 (9), 2-6 (5) Gavin's Pt., YBC; 1-9 (19) Lacreek N.W.R., HB; 2-3 (11) Pierre, 2-15 (2) Butte Co., JLM.

Common Merganser—12-5 (2860), 1-10 (21) Gavin's Pt., YBC; 12-20 (2) Big Stone City, BKH; 1-9 (6) Lacreek N.W.R., HB; 2-3 (11) Pierre, JLM.

### HAWKS AND EAGLES

Goshawk—12-19 Roberts Co. (1) BKH; 1-15 Brookings Co. (1 imm.) viewed 5 min. at 100 ft., white eye stripe clearly visible, ERE; 1-25 Jones Co. (1) RLH; 3-14 Gregory Co. (1 ad.) GLS.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—1-23 Rapid City (1) BLG; 2-29 Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln Co. (1) KE; 3-29 Waubay N.W.R. (1) RRJ.

Red-tailed Hawk—12-10 to 3-30 Yankton Co. (total 34), 1-30, 2-12 Bon Homme Co. (1) YBC; 1-4 to 3-28 Gregory Co. (total 6) GLS; 1-12, 2-10 Lyman Co. (1) WCT; 3-5 Badlands (1) RAW; 3-20 (1), 3-27 (2) Minn. Co., GWB; 3-22 Clark Co. (1) KFH; 3-28 Deuel Co. (1) NJH; 1-17 to 3-9 Black Hills area (total 7) JLM NRW.

**Rough-legged Hawk**—12-5 to 3-24 Yankton Co. (total 6) YBC; 12-13 to 3-21 Black Hills area (20) BHAS; 12-29 to 3-12 Lyman Co. (total 3) WCT; 1-15 (1), 1-30 (1) Bon Homme Co., 1-31 (1) Clay Co., YBC; 2-27 (1) Roberts Co., 3-22 (1) Waubay N.W.R., KFH; (1) all period near Whitewood, Lawrence Co., EEM.

**Ferruginous Hawk**—1-24 Chas. Mix Co. (1) KE; 3-13 Lyman Co. (1) RLH.

**Golden Eagle**—Present all period, Badlands, RAW; 12-27 to 2-1 Gregory Co. (total 15) GLS; 1-9 Lacreek N.W.R. (14) HB; 12-1 to 3-14 Jackson, Meade, Penn. Cos. (total 10) JLM, NRW; 1-16 (1), 3-10 (1) Perkins Co., AH; 1-15 (1) Chas. Mix Co., 1-30 (1) Yankton Co., YBC; 1-24 Chas. Mix Co. (1 imm.) KE; 1-25 Jones Co. (1) RLH.

**Bald Eagle**—12-6 (2) Hughes Co., 1-10 (1) Chas. Mix Co., RLH; present all period, peak date 12-20 (14), 1-15 (3) Bon Homme Co., 1-15 (3) Chas. Mix Co., 1-15 (4) Ft. Randall Dam, 1-16 (1) Union Co., YBC; 1-9 Lacreek N.W.R. (7) HB; 1-5 Penn. Co. (1) LY; 1-7 Buffalo Gap (1), Custer State Park (1) BN; 12-6 Deuel Co. (1 ad., 1 imm.) BKH; 1-24 Chas. Mix Co. (10) KE; 1-14 Sturgis, Meade Co. (1 ad.), seen each January in last five years, EEM; 3-3 Badlands (1) RAW; 2-14 (1 ad.) Butte Co., 2-22 (1 ad., 1 imm.) Fall River Co., JLM; 3-13 Perkins Co. (1) AH; 3-4 (1), 3-19 (5), 3-23 (1) Waubay N.W.R., KFH, RRJ; 1-11 Burke Co. (1 ad.) GLS; 3-28 Hyde Co. (1 ad.) observed by Jim Faulstich (fide JH).

**Marsh Hawk**—12-5 Clay Co. (1) KJH; 1-14 Yankton Co. (1) YBC; 2-20 Stanley Co. (1) JLM; 3-8 Lyman Co. (1) WCT.

**Prairie Falcon**—12-21 Penn. Co., eating prey on fence post (1), JLM; all period, Badlands (2), RAW; 1-10 Chas. Mix Co. (1), 1-25 Jones Co. (1), RLH; 2-22 Lyman Co. (1) WCT.

**Merlin**—12-18 Belle Fourche (1) IW; 1-13 Gregory Co. (1) in flight and at rest in field at 50 yards, 8 x binocular GLS; 1-31 Washabaugh Co. (1) RAW.

**American Kestrel**—12-22 (1), 12-23 (3) Rapid City, JLM, BN; 12-24 to 3-25 (total 21) Yankton Co., YBC.

**Unidentified Falcon**—12-29 Clay Co. (1) KJH; 1-10 to 3-25 Gregory Co. (5) GLS.

#### GROUSE, QUAIL

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**—Present all West River areas. Numbers appear to be down.

**Bobwhite**—12-14 Gregory Co. (15 sitting in roosting circle in cornfield in late afternoon, (6) present all period at Burke Lake, GLS; 1-25 (2) Yankton Co., 1-15 (3) Chas. Mix Co., YBC.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**—Wintered well in suitable habitat. Numbers continue to be low.

**Gray Partridge**—Reported from Brookings, Day, Minnehaha Counties. NJH, CP, KFH, GWB.

JUNE, 1976

**Wild Turkey**—Reported from Meade Co., EEM, and Gavin's Pt., WH.

#### RAILS TO GULLS

**Virginia Rail**—1-25 Jones Co. (1) RLH. (See "General Notes"-ed.)

**American Coot**—Several wintered on cooling pond at Big Stone Power Plant, Grant Co., KFH; several present all period, Gavin's Pt., YBC; 12-20 Big Stone City (1) BKH.

**Killdeer**—1-17 Rapid City (1) JLM, LY.

**Wilson's Phalarope**—2-21 on L. Sharpe below Pierre (1) JLM. (See "General Notes"-ed.)

**Common Snipe**—12-5 to 12-27 Rapid City (3) JLM, NRW; 1-11 Rapid Valley (1) JLM, EMS; 1-5 near Sturgis, Meade Co. (1) EEM.

**Glaucous Gull**—12-17 (2), at least (1) present until 12-24, 3-19 (1) Gavin's Pt., 1-15 Pickstown (1) YBC; 1-24 (1) first year imm., Pickstown, KE.

**Herring Gull**—12-5 (42), 3-20 (11) Gavin's Pt., YBC; 3-20 Brookings Co. (1) CP.

**Ring-billed Gull**—12-1 (20) Chamberlain, Brule Co., NRW; 12-3 (8) Gavin's Pt., YBC.

**Franklin's Gull**—1-24 (1) possible. Ft. Randall Dam. Only a brief glimpse of it flying into sun, but typical Franklin's wing-tip pattern clearly seen. No other marks seen. Distance was 100 yards. KE.

#### DOVES, OWLS, WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove**—2-27 Day Co. (1) KFH.

**Screech Owl**—12-1 to 3-1 Burke (1) appropriated a flicker house, GLS; 12-31 (1) dead on road, 1-15 (1) in garage, Clay Co., KJH; 12-31 (1) Hurley, CB; 1-25 (1) DOR 2-19 (1) Yankton Co., YBC.

**Great Horned Owl**—Present all period in most areas.

**Snowy Owl**—11-25 to 3-27 Deuel Co., minimum of (27) BKH; 12-6 Sand Lake N.W.R. (1) L.



—Sketched by Carolyn J. Hoover

## Great Blue Heron

Lochard; 12-18 Kingsbury Co. (1) YBC; 1-18 Turner Co. (1) CB; 1-19 Hyde Co. (1) V. Raske.

**Long-eared Owl**—1-4 Turner Co. (1) CB; 1-25 Jones Co. (1) RLH; 2-25 Deuel Co. (1) BKH.

**Short-eared Owl**—12-23 Waubay N.W.R. (2) KFH; 1-4 to 2-12 Deuel Co. (3) BKH.

**Belted Kingfisher**—12-7 to 1-17 Rapid City (total 7) BHAS; 12-18 (2), 1-13 (1) Gavin's Pt., YBC.

**Common Flicker**—Reported from Clay, Gregory, Lyman, Turner, and Yankton Counties, and Rapid City.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—At feeder all period, Clay Co. (1 m.) KJH; (1) seen on 12-7 and 3-21, Brookings Co., ERE; 12-31 Gregory Co. (1) GLS; often at feeder during period, Turner Co. (1) CB; (1) seen on 12-20 and 3-21 Yankton Co., YBC; 2-29 Lincoln Co. (1) KE.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—1-18 Gregory Co. (1 ad.) GLS. (Details in "General Notes," ed.)

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—12-1 Turner Co. (1) CB; 3-28 Pierre (1 m.) L. McDaniel (fide RLH).

**Hairy Woodpecker**—At least one pair present all period at all suet feeders.

**Downy Woodpecker**—One or more pairs present at most suet feeders.

**Horned Larks**—Present in all areas in good numbers.

#### JAYS TO WRENS

**Gray Jay**—1-21 at Kruse feeder, Custer Co. (1), 3-17 Sylvan L., Custer Co. (2) NRW.

**Blue Jay**—Present in normal numbers in most areas. Noticeably absent in Brookings Co., NJH, ERE.

**Black-billed Magpie**—Observed during period at Gavin's Pt. and in Jan. in Bon Homme Co., YBC. Present in suitable habitat in most West River areas.

**Common Crow**—Reported from Brookings, Clark, Gregory, Jackson, Penn., Turner, and Yankton Counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee**—Average of (6) daily at most feeders. Absent at Highmore, JH. Daily average of (20) at Waubay N.W.R. and Belle Fourche. 2-18 to 3-18 (22) banded at Burke Lake, Gregory Co., GLS.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—Average of (2 to 4) daily at most feeders. Down in numbers in Brookings Co., NJH. Absent at Highmore, JH.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Av. (2) daily at feeders, Rapid City, BHAS; (2) all period, Hurley, Turner Co., CB; (2) all period, Webster, HC; (8) all period, Brookings, GF; (3) all period, Waubay N.W.R., RRJ; 1-1 to 3-31 Yankton (1) present most days, YBC; 12-9 (1) Deuel Co., 12-30 (7) Watertown, Codington Co., BKH; (1) daily at feeder, Aberdeen, MRA.

**Brown Creeper**—12-7 Clay Co. (1) KJH; 12-7 Farm Island (1) RLH; at feeder often during

period (1), Hurley, CB; av. of (1) daily at most westside Rapid City feeders, BHAS.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**—1-25 (1) apparently wintering at a warm spring, Jones Co. Seen at a distance of 15 feet, flushed several times. RLH.

#### THRUSHES TO SHRIKES

**Brown Thrasher**—1-25 (1) wintering in an area of heavy underbrush and cedar trees below a stock dam on the Ft. Pierre National Grasslands, Jones Co. The bird was clearly seen several times. Its flight was strong and steady and appeared to be in good condition. RLH.

**American Robin**—Present all period in most of the areas.

**Eastern Bluebird**—12-1 (1) Union Co., 12-9 (5), 12-13 (2) Yankton area, YBC.

**Townsend's Solitaire**—12-7 (1), 1-10 to 1-20 (2), 3-12 (1) all in yard, Perkins Co., AH; common all period, Badlands, RAW; 12-5 (2) Belle Fourche, IW; 12-24 (1) Roberts Co. KE, Gordon Harris; 12-25 to 1-10 (1) Brookings Co., NJH; av. (1) at feeders, Rapid City, BHAS; many in all juniper gullies, Custer Co., BN; 1-10 to 2-10 av. (5) daily, Sturgis, EEM; 12-1 to 3-21 at least (1) present, 12-22 (3) Burke Lake, GLS.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—12-6 Farm Island (2) RLH; 1-3 (1) Burke, Gregory Co., GLS.

**Bohemian Waxwing**—Flocks in Dec. av. (150), 1-6 (20) BHAS; 1-28 (15) Penn. Co., NRW; small groups of (2-7) seen twice in Deuel Co., seen once in Codington and Grant Cos. during winter, BKH; 12-3 (12), 12-5 (25), 1-8 (4), 1-11 (43) feeding on juniper berries in yard, Perkins Co., AH; 12-5 (25), 2-10 (30) Belle Fourche, IW; flock of (25) at Waubay N.W.R. all winter, RRJ; 1-10 (13), 1-11 (10) Brookings Co., ERE; 1-11 to 2-15 large flocks of up to (200) Sturgis area, EEM; 1-21 (4) Burke Lake, GLS.

**Cedar Waxwing**—12-5 Belle Fourche (25) IW; small flocks present all period, Brookings, CP; common in Jan. and Feb., Minn. Co., GWB; 1-10 (11), 1-18 (37), 2-9 (25) Brookings Co., ERE; 1-20 (30), 2-14 (150) Burke Lake, GLS; 2-29 (10) Gavin's Pt., YBC; seen only twice in Deuel Co., BKH.

**Northern Shrike**—12-5 Belle Fourche (1) IW; 12-11 Hyde Co. (1) JH; 12-11 Turner Co. (1) CB; 12-20 (1), 1-22 (1) Gavin's Pt., 1-15 (1) Bon Homme Co., YBC; 1-10 Rapid City (1) banded at feeding station, NRW; 1-17, 1-22 (1) Rapid City, RCK; seen only twice, below av., Deuel Co., BKH; 3-20 (1) Brookings Co., CP; 3-23 Burke Lake (1) banded, GLS.

#### ICTERIDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS

**Western Meadowlark**—A few wintered in the southern and western areas of the state.

**Red-winged Blackbird**—A few present all winter in the Yankton area.

**Cardinal**—12-1 to 2-29 up to (7) on some days, scarce during March, Yankton, YBC; present all period, Sioux Falls, GWB; 12-22 Burke Lake (1 m.) GLS; 12-29 singing, 1-6 (1 pr.), 1-26, 2-1, 3-16 (1 m.) Clay Co., KJH.

**Evening Grosbeak**—Frequent flocks of (25) all period in Rapid City, many banded by NRW; observed regularly all winter in Deuel, Grant, Roberts, and Codington Counties, BKH; 12-3 (2) Highmore, JH; 12-7 (1), 1-3 (7) in yard, Perkins Co., AH; 12-5 (30), present most of period, Belle Fourche, IW; 1-11 to 2-10 Aberdeen (4 to 16 daily) MRA; 12-17 (2), one or two at feeder during period, Brookings Co., ERE; present all period at Sturgis, EEM; 12-4 Badlands (2) RAW; flock of (25) present at feeder all period, Waubay N.W.R., RRJ; 2-14 to 3-31 present at Garretson, Minn. Co., KE; flocks of (8-18) at feeders in Brookings all winter, CP, CAT; 1-8 (1), 1-16 (4), 2-29 (1), 3-15 (1) Yankton, YBC; 12-15 (3), 12-19 (1) Burke Lake, GLS.

**Purple Finch**—Av. (4) daily, Rapid City, LAW, VB; 12-1 (50) Burke Lake, GLS; (10) at feeder all period, Waubay N.W.R., RRJ; (10-12) daily during period, Aberdeen, MRA; (7) all winter, Webster, HC; 12-20 (1) Yankton, YBC; 12-11, 3-31 (1) Brookings, CP; small number all period, Sioux Falls, GWB; 1-3 (2), 1-6 (3) Brookings Co., ERE; 1-11 (3) Pierre, RLH; 2-14 to 3-31 present at Garretson, Minn. Co., KE.

**Cassin's Finch**—12-5 to 1-25 a few near Rapid City, LAW; 2-11 (8) near Rapid City, NRW.

**House Finch**—12-3 to 3-2 av. (1) a week at feeder, probably same bird each time, Rapid City, LAW.

**Gray-crowned Rosy Finch**—1-21 to 3-19 flocks present in Badlands, RAW; 1-22 flock of (35) at feeder through Feb. south of Rapid City (fide EMS).

**Common Redpoll**—Present all winter in all parts of the state. Flocks of (150) sighted. (2) banded in Feb. in Pierre, RLH; 3-11 to 3-19 (57) banded in Brookings, NJH.

**Pine Siskin**—Noticeably fewer numbers in Brookings, Sioux Falls and Rapid City. 12-10 Hyde Co., (10) JH; 1-9 Lyman Co. (6) WCT; 1-11 (3), 2-28 (5) Pierre, RLH; observed on 2-29 in Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln Co., KE; 2-20 Belle Fourche (1) IW; 2-19 Gregory Co. (2) GLS; 3-27 Gavin's Pt. (1) YBC; two records during period, Deuel Co., BKH; (25-100) daily, Aberdeen, MRA.

**American Goldfinch**—1-11 Pierre (7) RLH; 1-25 Rapid City (2) NRW; only one record, Deuel Co., BKH; conspicuously absent from feeders in Burke and Brookings, GLS, NJH; 3-21 (15) Yankton Co., YBC; (5-10) Aberdeen, MRA.

**Red Crossbill**—Absent, Rapid City, BHAS; one record in Deuel Co., BKH; several sightings in Sioux Falls in Dec., GWB, and present all

of March, KE; 3-27 (1) at feeder, Brookings, CAT.

**White-winged Crossbill**—Several seen in Sioux Falls during Dec., KE.

**Rufous-sided Towhee**—12-1 to 1-5 (1) Rapid Creek, Rapid City, BHAS; 12-30 (1) in shelterbelt, Brookings Co., NJH.

**Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged)**—Regular at feeder during period, Sturgis, Meade Co., EEM; present at feeder, Rapid City, NRW.

**Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)**—Present in Black Hills area, BHAS.

**Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-col.)**—Small numbers present at most feeders and near suitable habitat all period.

**Tree Sparrow**—A few were present regularly in all areas during the season.

**Harris' Sparrow**—12-5 (3), 1-6 (6), 1-20 (20) at feeder, Belle Fourche, IW; 12-8 (4), 1-4 (2) at feeder, Clay Co., KJH; 12-1 to 12-6 (1) Hyde Co., JH; 12-24 Roberts Co. (2) KE; av. (2) in Dec., few records in Jan., Rapid City, BHAS; (1) most of Jan., Yankton, YBC; 2-27 Sioux Falls (2) GWB; 3-15 Brookings Co. (1) NJH; 3-24 Waubay N.W.R. (2) RRJ; (1) at feeder on about 10 days in Jan., Burke, GLS.

**Song Sparrow**—A few wintered along creeks, Rapid City, BHAS; 12-7 (1), absent rest of period, first time in four years none have wintered, c. Brookings Co., ERE; 2-27 Sioux Falls (5) GWB.

**Lapland Longspur**—Present all period in most areas. Migrating late Feb. and early March. 3-18 Yankton Co. (4700) YBC.

**Snow Bunting**—Observed in flocks up to (200) over most of eastern half of the state during the winter season. Present until early March in most areas. None reported from West River area.

## Contributors

### WEST RIVER—

Black Hills Audubon Society (BHAS)  
Members: Gerry Abernathy; Violet L. Brodsky (VLB); Bonnie Green (BLG); Rachel Katterjohn (RCK); Willow Linde; Dorothy McCulloh; Harold and Jocie Mortimer (HJM, JLM); Leighton and Ruth Palmerton (LRP); Helen Schwegert; Esther Serr (EMS); Elizabeth Southmayd; Leota Williams (LAW); N.R. Whitney (NRW); Lenord and Clara Yarger (LY, CY).

Harold Burgess (HB), Manager,  
Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge  
Alfred and Gertrice Hinds (AH)  
Ernest E. Miller (EEM)

Barney Nordstrom (BN)  
Galen L. Steffen (GLS)  
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National Monument

EAST RIVER—  
Margerey R. Arbogast (MRA)  
G.W. Blankespoor (GWB)  
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Herman Chilson (HC)  
Kim Eckert (KE)  
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Gladyce Froiland (GF)  
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Richard L. Hill (RLH)  
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Karolyn J. Hoover (KJH)

Carol Peterson (CP)  
Charles A. Taylor (CAT)  
Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day  
Co.—Robert R. Johnson (RRJ); Kent F.  
Hall (KFH); Edmund J. Fromelt (EJF).  
Yankton Bird Club (YBC)—Members:  
Willis and Rosamond Hall, Douglas  
Chapman, Evelyn Lien, Roy Park.

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## A Raptor Survey

(Continued from Page 30)

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with special reference to their selective  
effect. *Oikos* 3: 200-231.  
Ward, F.P. and D.P. Martin. 1968. An  
improved cage trap for birds of prey.  
*Bird Banding* 39(4): 310-313.

## In Memoriam

REV. EUGENE W. SZALAY  
September 26, 1915—June 14, 1975

“... Went for an early morning walk. The meadowlarks were in full song.”  
These words from the diary of Father Eugene Szalay were written two days  
before his sudden and unexpected death. They are typical of the closeness to  
nature he displayed throughout his life.

Father Szalay, born in Poughkeepsie, New York, moved to Rapid City in  
the early 1940's, and was appointed pastor to the Spearfish parish in 1970. In  
addition to his vocation, he did extensive historical research and is remem-  
bered for the mass of information which he compiled on the Black Hills area  
and the American West. Father Gene, as he was known to his many friends, was  
also a charter member of South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. His studies and  
vocation often limited his activities in SDOU meetings but they never over-  
shadowed his love of birds and all living things. Those of us fortunate enough to  
have birded with him or even experienced a short trip into the field with him  
knew him as a man with a great awareness of life and a remarkable ability to  
accurately describe the various life forms.

Father Szalay passed away quietly in his sleep at his residence in Spear-  
fish. Those who knew him—even for a fragment of their lives—will grieve his  
passing but remain grateful for having been able to share that time with a man  
who truly appreciated life's gifts and retained the most he could out of each  
day.—Tom Hays, Spearfish.



## General Notes of Special Interest

**WINTER RECORD FOR WILSON PHALAROPE**—On February 21, 1976, at approximately 1:00 p.m., while observing birds on Lake Sharpe, my husband, Harold Mortimer, called my attention to a shore bird that was feeding in the water being released through the gates of Oahe Dam. After viewing the bird in the water through 7 x 35 binoculars and a 20 x Balscope, while the bird swirled and followed the current, we determined that it was a phalarope. This was quite obvious because of its silhouette and long slender needle-like bill. When it flew from the water to the shore and walked a short distance along the shore, greenish-yellow legs were noticeable. In flight the bird had plain, darkish wings (no wing stripe or streaking or spotting on the under or upper parts) and a white rump. It was observed two times in flight, twice in the water feeding and swirling and once on the shore. From its vigorous flight, it appeared to be a healthy Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in winter plumage.—Jocelyn Mortimer, 2404 Canyon Lake Dr., Rapid City 57701

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**JANUARY DATE FOR RED-HEADED WOODPECKER IN GREGORY COUNTY**—On January 18, 1976, I observed a Red-headed Woodpecker, in full adult plumage, near a wooded creek bottom six miles south of Burke, Gregory County.

When first seen, the bird was in flight across the road in front of my car. The woodpecker came to rest in a large tree about thirty yards from the road, where it was clearly viewed with the aid of an 8 power binocular. The bird remained in the tree for several minutes before flying

on down the creek. Its flight was strong and steady, and the bird appeared to be in good condition.

Bent, in his "Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers," pp. 207-209, reports that the winter range of the Red-headed Woodpecker depends less on temperature than it does on an adequate food supply. In this area, however, the bird is listed as a casual winter visitant in southeastern South Dakota (two records at Yankton), North Dakota (specimen at Grafton in January 1905), and Minnesota (frequent in southern part).

This was my first observation of a Red-headed Woodpecker in Gregory County in the winter months. The bird is usually gone by late September.—Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523

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**LE CONTE'S SPARROWS**—The fall of 1975, in our area, was unusually good for observing LeConte's Sparrows. These small colorful birds were present on seven days from September 27 to October 23. We noted nine birds on October 9, the peak date. All of the sparrows were observed at close range in the luxuriant tall grass in the ditches of little-travelled roads in Yankton and Clay Counties.

On September 27, one of three birds was in poor plumage, and two of the five observed on September 28 were also shabby. The colors and patterns of the plumage of most were beautiful and striking for sparrows, decidedly outdoing the illustrations in all my bird books.

One place favored by the Le Conte's Sparrows was the roadside ditch bordering a trampled pasture which had a shallow water hole. The dry weather was undoubtedly the reason we also saw many other birds there. They included four Golden Plover on October 26, Water

Pipits, blackbirds, Savannah Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Harris' Sparrow, Song Sparrows, and an early flock of Lapland Longspurs.

Our notes show that Le Conte's Sparrows were seen in Yankton and Clay Counties in 1972 and 1973, but in smaller numbers and over a shorter period of time (October 7 to October 13). We had a total of 31 in the fall of 1975.—Willis Hall, 1111 Douglas Ave., Yankton 57078

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**WINTER RECORD FOR BELTED KINGFISHER IN GREGORY COUNTY**—On January 6, 1974, a morning when the temperature was five degrees below zero, I was surprised to see a Belted Kingfisher perched on a small tree near the bank of a narrow frozen stream, and about 20 feet from the road. I reversed the car to a position near the perch where I could obtain a close view.

The bird had its head tucked under a wing, and was apparently unaware of the nearby car. I rolled the window down, watched the kingfisher for several minutes with my 8x binocular, and then rapped on the side of the car to arouse the bird so I could see its head. The large beak and the crest on the head were noted. Other features included the blue back and head, the short tail, and the white underparts with the blue band across the breast. After some more observation, I closed the window. The bird then left and flew out of sight down the creek. It appeared to be in good health; its flight was strong and steady.

I wondered how the kingfisher could survive during the extreme cold without any open water areas for feeding. I found in Bent's "Life Histories" that the food of the Belted Kingfisher includes small birds, mice, and berries. I assume that this bird was finding enough of the last two items to sustain it until the weather warmed enough to thaw the creek.

I searched again several times for the bird but was unable to find it.—Galen L. Steffen. Burke 57523.



—Photo by D. G. Adolphson

## Brewer's Blackbirds

**PARTIALLY WHITE BREWER'S BLACKBIRD BANDED IN PENNINGTON COUNTY**—A partially white female Brewer's Blackbird was banded (U.S. Fish and Wildlife band no. 692-35203) at my former banding station two miles west of Rapid City, Pennington County, on June 13, 1969. White feathers covered the head and extended down on part of the neck. This bird was observed in the area during the 1967 to 1972 nesting seasons. It is shown in the photograph with a normal female Brewer's Blackbird.

The loosely associated colony of about 25 Brewer's nested in the ravines at the eastern edge of the Black Hills. Ten adults and five nestlings were banded. Brewer's arrive in this area in early May and leave in late August. Nests are found at heights of five to seven feet in the large willow shrubs that line the sides and bottoms of the ravines.—D.G. Adolphson, 216 N. Lincoln Ave., Sterling, Virginia 22170

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**PEREGRINE FALCON IN UNION COUNTY**—A daily 120-mile round trip to work has its disadvantages, but the one-hour drive on the same route each morning gives me a chance to see many birds. At 8:15 a.m. on October 20, 1975, one-half mile south of the Jefferson Exit on I-29, I saw two large falcons swooping about the bridge. Just 16 days earlier Willis Hall and I had seen a large falcon species at Lake Yankton, but were

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

unable to identify it. I thus welcomed this second chance to identify a large falcon.

I pulled off onto the shoulder and observed the birds for ten minutes. One seemed to shy away at my presence. I never got a good look at it, except to note the larger size and the brownish back and upper wings. The other bird seemed not to notice me. When I saw its bluish gray back, I observed this bird more closely.

These birds stayed at this overpass the full time I was there; the bold one, always on the wing, was sometimes as close as 20 feet from me, giving several exceptionally good views of the bird. He had the unmistakable black and white pattern and the dark cap of the Peregrine Falcon. If the other bird was a Peregrine, it must have been an immature or a female.

It seemed to me that the falcons were attracted by some sparrows on the bridge. The falcons appeared to be playing tag with them rather than threatening the sparrows. I have found an example of similar behavior in Bent's "Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey," Part 2, pp. 58-59.—Douglas Chapman, 1903 Whiting Drive, Yankton 57078.

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**DISPLAYING AMERICAN WOODCOCK IN ROBERTS COUNTY**—At dusk on April 9, 1976, a displaying male American Woodcock was sighted along the west shore of Big Stone Lake in Hartford Beach State Park, Roberts County, South Dakota. We approached within 50 feet as the bird moved through its territory giving its distinctive call. The aerial display was repeated several times during the half-hour that we observed the bird. The time spent in the air during each display averaged about 1½ minutes. There were no other woodcocks in view in the area.

Observers included K. Hansen, P. Magnuson, and L. Paulson—Jean Takekawa, 3315 Hennepin Ave. No. 2, Minneapolis, Minn. 55408

**TWO MOCKINGBIRD RECORDS**—On May 26, 1957, when we were enroute to the Sioux Falls Audubon Society's field trip in the Newton Hills, we saw a Mockingbird in a fence corner nine miles north of Canton, Lincoln County. When we returned home in the late afternoon, several members followed us and we observed the bird in the same place. Scott and Alma Findley were among those who saw it.

On April 30, 1966, we saw two Mockingbirds in some trees near the Shindler Slough southeast of Sioux Falls. We stopped our car to observe the birds. While we were watching, they flew across the road in front of us and perched on old cornstalks in the field near the road.

Binoculars were used in both of these sightings, although they were not necessary. We were able to observe the birds at close range and at our leisure; they were still present when we left.—Gladyce and Charles Rogge, 2012 So. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls 57105

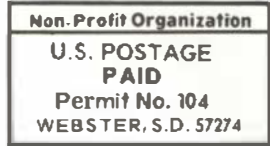
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**RED-NECKED GREBE AND WOOD DUCK RECORDS**—On June 3, 1957, near a bridge four miles south of Canton, Lincoln County, we observed a Red-necked Grebe in a creek. We watched the bird at close range for several minutes. The large size, with the rufous-red neck and yellow bill of the breeding plumage made the identification positive.

We also observed a Red-necked Grebe north of Webster, Day County, on May 18, 1969.

Wood Ducks were sighted on a small pond near the northwest corner of Lake Madison, Lake County, on October 6, 1962. There were more than 50 males and females present.

On October 11, 1972, we saw 18 male and female Wood Ducks on the sewage disposal pond near Pickstown, Charles Mix County. A pair was seen at the same location on later dates.—Gladyce and Charles Rogge, 2012 So. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls 57105



**VIRGINIA RAIL: WINTER RECORD IN JONES COUNTY**—On 25 January 1976, a Virginia Rail, apparently wintering by a warm spring in Jones County, was flushed at a distance of ten feet. The long beak and the typical rail flight were readily recognized (I had seen Virginia Rails many times when I lived on the California coast). The bird appeared to be in healthy condition. A second attempt to flush the rail was unsuccessful.—Richard L. Hill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pierre

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**SCARLET Tanager IN DAY COUNTY**—On May 27, 1974, when our family was gathered at our Pickerel Lake home for Memorial Day, our daughter-in-law, Virginia, suddenly directed our attention to a beautiful bird perched on a basswood tree about 15 feet from the large window. It was a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), and he stayed in the tree for at least 15 to 20 minutes. The bright sunlight brought out his colors to perfection, and every member of the family had an opportunity to study him closely. There were as many as eight of us at the window at one time, but he paid scant attention to us.

I like Over's description: "A flaming torch among the trees. Every feather on

its body proper is brilliant scarlet while every feather on the wings and tail is jet black."

On checking my Pickerel Lake records, I found only two sightings—May 16 and 20, 1967. Donan Miotke, who lives a mile north of us on the shore of Pickerel Lake, told me that he also had seen a male Scarlet Tanager one week earlier, on May 18, 1974.

The Scarlet Tanager is not listed in Chilson's DR. KNICKERBOCKER'S 1869 LIST OF BIRDS OF FORT WADSWORTH: IN McChesney's BIRDS OF FORT SISSETON, 1879; or Youngworth's BIRDS OF FORT SISSETON, 1935. Arthur Lundquist, pioneer birder and bander from Webster, never observed tanagers in Day County. He did, however, see his first one in Roberts County in 1936.

The National Wildlife Refuge Checklist for 1954 listed none, but there was a reference to one that had been seen a few miles from the refuge. It is interesting to note that Scarlet Tanagers were observed at S.D.O.U. Conventions in Day County in 1956, 1961 and 1975. We hope this upward trend continues and this beautiful bird will become more plentiful in the northeast corner of the state.—Herman P. Chilson, Pickerel Lake, Grenville 57239