

South Dakota Bird Notes

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Whole No. 111



Lark Bunting
Official SDOU Emblem

—Designed by Wayne Trimm

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South Dakota Ornithologists' Union

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For Term Expiring 1979: Bill Lemons, Meckling; Nelda Holden, Brookings; Esther Edie, Bruce; Galen L. Steffen, Burke; Robert Buckman, Madison.

President's Page

The fall SDOU meeting at Brookings was well attended, with over 50 people participating in the various sessions. Those who were present at the Saturday evening program enjoyed an excellent slide presentation by James Brendenburg, wildlife photographer from Worthington, Minnesota, telling the story of the importance of saving native prairie lands. He had a grant with The Nature Conservancy which provided the opportunity to work on the prairies. His



slides of birds were topnotch, and one series on the Ferruginous Hawk nest with young was exceptional.

Many of his pictures were taken on the Ordway Prairie near Leola, South Dakota. This prairie is the most recent site

acquired in South Dakota by The Nature Conservancy, and consists of nearly 8000 acres. Members will have an opportunity to view this area next year; we have received and accepted an invitation from Paul Bultsma, manager, to hold our 1978 Spring Meeting at Ordway Prairie. (Remember that the 1977 Spring Meeting will be at Bison on May 20-22. The 1977 Fall Meeting will be held at Vermillion.)

Les Baylor told those present about a piece of land in a ravine near Rapid City that has been offered to SDOU as a bird sanctuary. The plot of approximately one and one-fourth acres contains a diversity of vegetation, including ponderosa pines, juniper, boxelder, chokecherry, a large

plum thicket, and a stand of aspen trees. This is one of the lowest elevations reported for aspens growing in the Hills. Birds utilize the acreage during all seasons. Pictures of the area and an outline of the project were presented for consideration. The members and the executive board agreed to accept the offer of the land. Further details will be in a later issue of BIRD NOTES.

Inflation finally hit SDOU, and we were forced to increase our dues for regular membership to \$6.00. Raises in the other categories are: family \$9.00; junior \$3.00; sustaining \$12.00. We had an ever-increasing expense with the printing of "South Dakota Bird Notes," with the result that we were spending more money than we were taking in. We hope that each of you will see the need for this raise and accept it graciously.

You will be interested to know that the annotated check-list of South Dakota birds will soon be in print. The publishers reported that they expect to have the typesetting finished by the end of December 1976. At the time of the SDOU meeting, the Check-list Committee made final corrections in the manuscript. When this book is published it will be an excellent addition to your library.

The same officers were elected at the executive meeting for the year 1977. Three new board members were elected at the business meeting. They were Gilbert Blankespoor, Sioux Falls; Robert Buckman, Madison; and Kenneth Husmann, Brookings. These replaced, respectively, the positions vacated by Herbert Krause, Charles Rogge, and B. J. Rose—Nelda Holden, Brookings.

1976 Fall Meeting, November 5-7

J. Harter

An excellent program, organized by Nelda Holden, with the assistance of Esther Edie and Carol Peterson, combined with pleasant weather to make the 1976 Fall Meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union one that will be remembered with pleasure. It opened Friday evening at Pugsley Center, South Dakota State University, with a social hour, registration, and a presentation of the slide pictures taken by N.R. Whitney on a trip to South Africa earlier this year.

On Saturday, participants in the early morning field trip to Oakwood Lakes joined later with the other members at Pugsley Center for the paper session, which was opened by N.R. Whitney with "The Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey—1967-1976—A Search for More Cooperation." He defined the survey program and emphasized the need for qualified participants to cover several inactive routes in the state. Birders who are interested in taking one or more routes should write to Dr. Whitney.

L.M. Baylor then told us in his "Non-game-bird Transects: Black Hills National Forest" how the studies of breeding birds and their habitats are now being considered in forest management. He wryly described some of the ups and downs encountered in his coverage of the areas.

Memorials for Ruth Habeger, read by Nelda Holden, and for Herb Krause, by Les Baylor, concluded the morning program.

In the afternoon, four excellent papers were presented by students from SDSU, Brookings, and USD, Vermillion. In "Birds in Shelterbelts," Tom Martin, SDSU, described the effects of different canopy volumes on species types and

populations, and estimated that we need ten times the number of shelterbelts now present. Mike Weber, SDSU, noted in "Non-game Birds in Marshes" that loss of habitat has drastically reduced waterfowl production but little is known about the loss of habitat on non-game birds.

The next two papers were "Ferruginous Hawks in Harding County," by Charles Blair, SDSU, and "A Behavior and Movement Study of the Trumpeter Swans in the Lacreek Region," by James Leach, USD. Charles Blair is studying breeding birds and young, and will try to find out where the birds winter. He emphasized that Ferruginous Hawks will desert nests that are disturbed before the eggs hatch. James Leach has found Lacreek Trumpeter Swans in several other areas, and as far away as Lake Traverse in the northeast corner of the state—a possible harbinger of more success in the program to restore the species in South Dakota.

The formal program was concluded with "American Land Trust Program," a film narrated by Hugh Downs for The Nature Conservancy, and shown by David Holden. It is a beautiful and effective vehicle for conveying the message of an organization that is rapidly gaining more and more success and support.

Some of the measures deliberated in the business meeting were the dues, future meeting places, elections, and the unprecedented possibility that SDOU will become a landowner.

The impact of increased costs was reflected in Les Baylor's report on the condition of the treasury. Members concurred with his recommendation that

dues should be raised to: sustaining \$12; regular \$6; family \$9; and juniors \$3. Part of the treasury problem has been the membership reduction from 280 one year ago to the present 259.

Directors whose terms had expired were nominated and elected to another three-year term. They are: Nelda Holden, Bill Lemons, Esther Edie, and Galen Steffen. The fifth member of that group, Charles Rogge, had resigned; Robert Buckman was elected to replace him. B.J. Rose had also resigned, and the members elected Kenneth Husmann to complete his term, which expires in 1978. Gilbert Blankespoor was elected to finish the term of the late Herbert Krause. SDOU takes this opportunity to express thanks to Rogge and Rose for their long and effective service on the executive board.

Invitations were accepted to have the 1977 Fall Meeting at Vermillion and the 1978 Spring Meeting at Ordway Prairie in McPherson County. The 1977 Spring Meeting will be hosted by Alfred and Gertrice Hinds at Bison, May 20-22.

A small parcel of land on the edge of Rapid City, and an offer to donate it to SDOU, was described by Les Baylor; members unanimously agreed by resolution that the board should continue to explore the project.

At the board meeting, directors re-elected the present slate of officers, discussed promotional methods for increasing membership, and voted to accept the property near Rapid City. If the transfer is completed, a supervising committee will handle the problem of soliciting money for any expenses involved.

James Brandenburg, the speaker at the banquet in the attractive Walder Room in the University Student Center, had the undivided attention of his audience throughout his superb slide presentation entitled "The Importance of the Tall Grass Prairie with Emphasis on

Its Bird Life." Mr. Brandenburg is a professional wildlife photographer and has had a grant with The Nature Conservancy to prepare slides that emphasize the importance of the prairies. He and his family live in Worthington, Minn.

Registrants at the meeting:

From Nebraska

John and Willetta Lueshen

From South Dakota

Brookings—Orena Cooper; Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Froiland; Mr. and Mrs. John Haertel; D.J. Cline; Nelda, David, and Arthur Holden; Kenneth and Patsy Husmann; Bill and Carol M. Peterson; David Rieck; Terry Spitzenberger; Darrell and Lois Wells.

Bruce—Richard and Esther Edie.

Burke—Galen L. Steffen

Clear Lake—Bruce K. Harris

Garretson—Kim R. Eckert

Highmore—June Harter; Mrs. Frank Hawkins.

Madison—Robert Buckman.

Meckling—William E. Lemons.

Prairie City—Alfred and Gertrice Hinds.

Rapid City—Mary and Les Baylor; Jocelyn Lee Mortimer; Esther Serr; Mary and Nat Whitney.

Sioux Falls—Janice and Gilbert Blankespoor; Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Froiland; Dilwyn and Priscilla Rogers.

Vermillion—Byron and Joyce Harrell.

Volga—George Palmer and father.

Webster—Herman P. Chilson.

White—Florence Kurtz; Ron and Hazel Shave.

Yankton—Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hall.

Also present were five South Dakota State University students and two University of South Dakota students. Four of these presented papers: Tom Martin, SDSU; Mike Weber, SDSU; Charles Blair, SDSU; James Leach, USD.

General Notes of Special Interest

UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS AT LACREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—In BIRD NOTES (25:60-61), Conrad Fjetland reported adding 22 species to the 235 listed in *Birds of Lacreek* (1969).

Since 1973, Harold Burgess observed a white-phased Little Blue Heron on July 2-6, 1975; a pair of Tule Geese on March 3, 1974, and a Long-tailed Jaeger on October 3, 1975 (reported in BIRD NOTES 27:69); Albert D. Ridgway, Jr. flushed a Yellow Rail on June 3, 1975, and Rich Wilt reported a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on November 11, 1974. These observations add five new species, making a total of 262 bird species that have been identified on Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge. (Harold Burgess, observer of the Tule Geese (*Anser albifrons gambelli*), stated that he has previously seen this large dark race of the White-fronted Goose in Missouri, where a small population stops on its way to Texas wintering grounds. A larger population of Tule Geese winter chiefly in California.—Ed.)

In addition, some recent unusual sightings were: a Green Heron by Ridgway on May 4, 1974; Cattle Egret observed by Ridgway on May 1-4, 1974; a Snowy Egret observed during the 1974 summer and again on July 5, 1975, and photographed by Ridgway; Whistling Swans during the 1974-75 and 1975-76 winters; two White-winged Scoters observed by C.J. Ritts and Burgess October 3 to November 27, 1974; a Broad-winged Hawk by Burgess on May 4, 1974; a King Rail with young observed by Burgess during the 1973 and 1974 summers; a Piping Plover observed by Burgess on August 2-4, 1975; a Ruddy Turnstone sighted May 4, 1974; a Blue Grosbeak and

two Indigo Buntings observed by Ridgway on May 23, 1975; a Bell's Vireo nesting on July 4-10, 1975, photographed and tape recorded by Dirk Hagemeyer, and observed by Burgess and Ridgway.

Ferruginous Hawks, Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Prairie Falcons, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, and Burrowing Owls, considered "threatened" or "status undetermined" nationally, were occasionally to commonly observed seasonally by the staff on Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge during the past two years.—Harold H. Burgess, Manager, Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Martin, S.D. 57551.

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CINNAMON TEAL, GOSHAWK, OSPREY IN LAKE COUNTY—On March 16, 1976, shortly after 2:00 p.m., I was with my Ornithology class from Dakota State College when we observed a Goshawk about 2 miles southeast of Madison. The Goshawk was perching on a tree limb about 5 or 6 feet above the ground and the distance was about 100 yards. We observed the bird with binoculars and with a 20x spotting scope for a period of 5 to 10 minutes. The distinguishing features could be seen with the spotting scope—the red eye, white eye stripe, and the fluffy white under the tail feathers. On this day the wind was out of the south at 1-5 miles per hour, the sky was clear, and the temperatures was 40 degrees.

On April 1, 1976 and again on April 8, 1976, at approximately 3:00 p.m., a Cinnamon Teal was sighted, at locations two miles apart. The first bird was viewed at a distance of 150 to 200 yards but its rust or cinnamon color was clearly visible. The second bird was observed at

a closer range — from 20 to 50 yards — and again the rust color was very prominent. The weather data for April 1: south wind at 10-15 m.p.h., clear sky, 65 degrees F.; for April 8: south wind at 5 m.p.h., clear sky, and a temperature of 68 degrees.

On April 27, an Osprey was observed flying over Lake Herman State Park, about 3-4 miles southwest of Madison. The bird was flying directly overhead and when viewed through the binoculars the characteristic underwing pattern and the "wrist" could be seen. On this date the wind was east at 5-10 m.p.h., there was a light overcast of about 10 percent cloud cover, and the temperature was 64 degrees.—Robert D. Buckman, Dakota State College, Madison 57042

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WOOD THRUSH IN LAKE COUNTY—On May 23, 1976, I was observing birds in the environmental area in the city of Madison. At this time of year, there is standing water in the intermitten creek running through the place. Numerous tall trees are along the banks of the creek. A single Wood Thrush was observed in this area at 8:00 p.m. The temperature was 55 degrees F., the wind was out of the south at 10 m.p.h., and the sky was 20 percent overcast. The bird was only 30-40 feet from me and could be seen clearly. The large spots on the breast extended down to the legs; the rusty head and back, with the more buffy tail, was noted.—Robert Buckman, Dakota State College, Madison 57042

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CATTLE EGRET IN SPINK COUNTY—On Oct. 31, 1975, at approximately 1:30 p.m. and again at 3:15 p.m., I sighted a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) along Highway 37, about one-quarter mile south of the junction with Highway 212, Spink County.

The bird was feeding in the ditch on the east side of the road, and flushed as the car went by. It did not fly more than 100 yards, but appeared to be in good

physical condition. It was a pure white bird, approximately 17 to 20 inches long. It had dark legs and feet, a bright yellow bill, and it flew in typical heron fashion with its neck folded.

I stopped the car and studied the bird for some time to make sure it was not a Snowy Egret or an immature Little Blue Heron. I am firmly convinced this was a Cattle Egret, possibly an immature.—Gordon S. Lind, Environmental Specialist, Bur. of Reclamation, Huron

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RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: STATE LIST NOW INCLUDES SPECIMEN FOUND IN GRANT COUNTY—On April 18, 1975, a fine specimen of the Red-shouldered Hawk was found dead near Big Stone City by Dennis Strum, Assistant Refuge Manager at the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge. Knowing that the bird was probably rare in the area, Mr. Strum notified me of the find, and the bird was then preserved as the first specimen for the species in South Dakota. This record was included in the 1975 Spring Season report (BN, 27:33); the record is worthy of the publication of additional details. (Our apologies to Dennis Strum; his name was inexplicably misspelled in the 1975 report.—Ed.) The skin of the bird was made up by Walter Rose, and deposited in the W.H. Over Museum at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

There has been only one sight record for the Red-shouldered Hawk in the state. The observation was made by Don Hunter, near Centerville, Turner County. No date is available for this unconfirmed report.

The Red-shouldered Hawk is probably another bird that has been overlooked by birders in eastern South Dakota. Although rare in western Minnesota, it has been reported along the South Dakota border every three or four years, and we should be finding it as a rare spring or fall migrant.—Bruce K. Harris, Clear Lake

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS IN LAKE COUNTY—On August 26, 1976, when I was taking my Vertebrate Zoology class for a field trip, two Black-bellied Plovers were sighted in the south edge of Redfield Slough which is part of a waterfowl production area about five miles southeast of Madison. The time was 3:00 p.m., the sky was clear, the temperature was about 90 degrees, and the velocity of the south wind was an estimated 15 m.p.h.

The characteristic black belly and white head were noted, and we observed the black auxillaries under the wings of one of the birds as it walked along.—Robert Buckman, Dakota State College, Madison 57042

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WHIP-POOR-WILL RECORDS IN YANKTON, LINCOLN, AND WALWORTH COUNTIES—On June 10, 1962, we heard a Whip-poor-will calling northwest of Gavin's Point Dam, near Yankton.

In the Boy Scout area in Newton Hills, Lincoln County, we heard a Whip-poor-will calling in the late afternoon of May 18, 1962. We followed the voice and found the bird perched on a rock near an old building. We watched as it called, and heard one or more birds answering the calls from a distance. Again, on May 14, 1964, we heard a bird calling in the same area.

In the evening of June 8, 1970, we heard a Whip-poor-will calling at Hiddenwood

Herbert Krause

Herbert Krause, noted ornithologist, died at Sioux Falls in October 1976. A special article and tribute by L.M. Baylor will be in the March BIRD NOTES.

Lake State Park, near Selby, Walworth County. We located the bird, and watched it fly from tree to tree, calling. We had an excellent view of this bird, and the white tail feathers indicated it was a male. We heard it calling again the next morning.—Gladyce and Charles Rogge, Sioux Falls

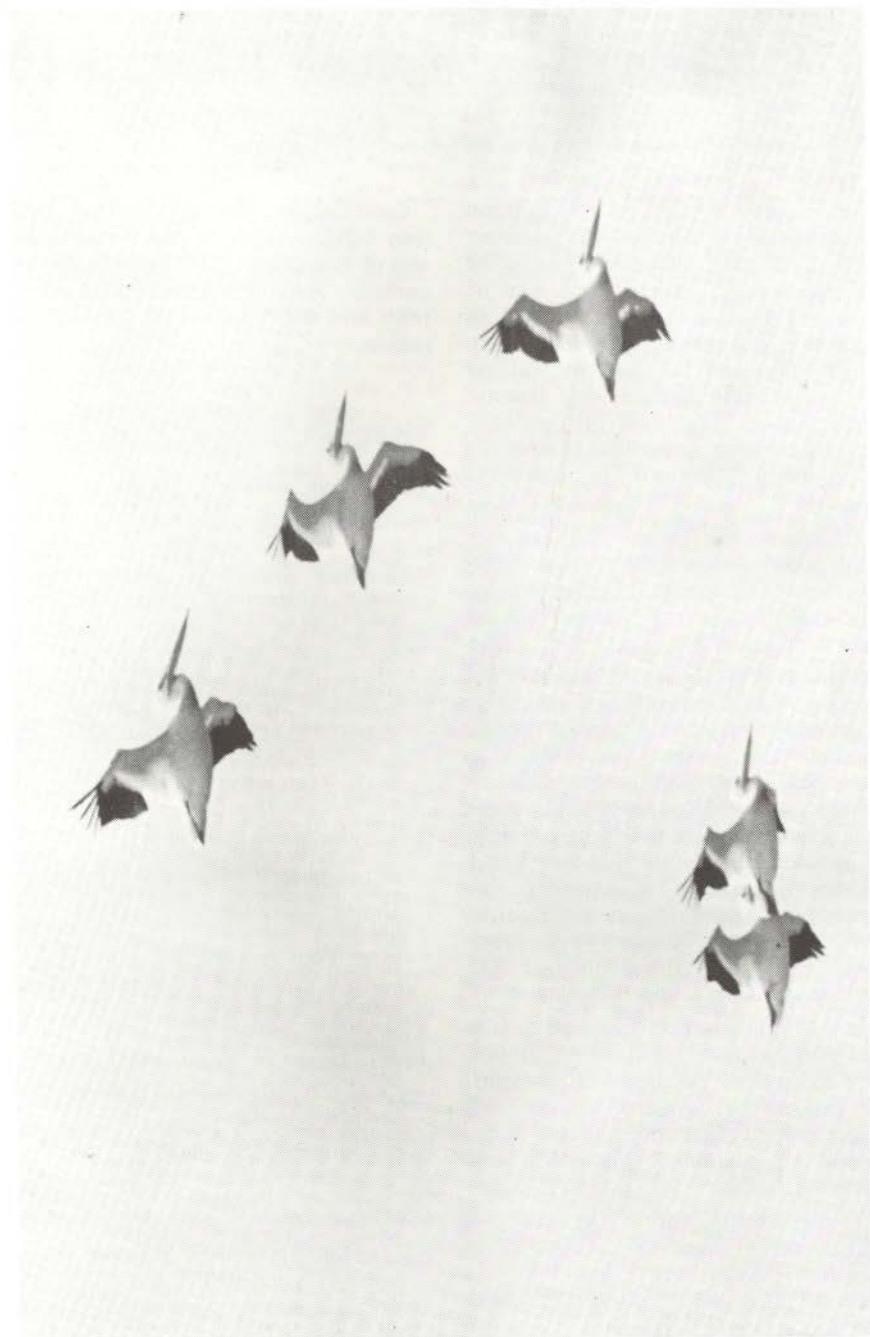
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SNOWY EGRET: SPRING 1975 RECORDS IN DEUEL AND GRANT COUNTIES—My first Snowy Egret observation in South Dakota was on April 30, 1975, when my wife and I saw an adult bird in full plumage near Briggs Lake, nine miles northeast of Clear Lake. We watched the bird for nearly a half-hour as it fed along a watercourse formed by seasonal flooding of a wetlands. At distances up to 80 yards, in excellent light, we noted the plumes flowing back from the head, the bright yellow lores, dark bill and legs. We were able to see the yellow feet easily, both while the bird walked on the short-cropped pasture, and when the egret was flushed.

On May 6, 1975, I checked out a report of a white bird on the Norbert Syrstad farm, located on the Yellowbank Creek in Grant County, about six miles north of the Deuel County line, on U.S. Highway 77. Mr. Syrstad had noted the strange bird "for about three weeks" at this location, as it fed daily along the fast-flowing Yellowbank Creek, not far from his residence; he wanted to learn the bird's identity, and was good enough to call me.

This Snowy Egret was not the same bird observed earlier in Deuel County; its lores were distinctly paler than those on the egret recorded at Briggs Lake. I had a good view of this individual, noting the yellow feet without any difficulty. Back-dating three weeks would give a

(Continued on page 75)



—Photo Courtesy U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

White Pelicans

1976 Nesting Season, June 1-August 15

COMPILERS: G.L. Steffen, B.K. Harris, J. Harter

Extremely dry conditions predominated in all but the western fourth of the state and a few areas on the northern border. Precipitation was as much as ten inches below normal in many counties. Marshes and lakes were dry or very low; the staff at Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day County, stated that 99 percent of the wetlands were dry, with the exceptions being those in northern Marshall and Roberts Counties.

Conversely, the Black Hills and adjacent prairies received normal or above normal rainfall during June and most of July, and conditions in that part of the state were much better.

Regardless of the dry conditions, most species, with the exception of water birds, apparently had a normal nesting season. Declines were noted, however, in some species of land birds, while increases were reported for others. Upland Sandpipers, for example, were reported in good numbers; Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared to be increasing, due perhaps to a decrease in the Starling population; and there were more Burrowing Owls reported this year than for many years.

Bare grasslands, shriveled and useless fruit, and seed heads that did not fill out, were some other results of the drought. The reduced cover, water sources, and food supplies will certainly have some effects on resident, migrating, and wintering birds.

In this report, the statements that species were breeding or nesting in specific counties denote that we have received dates and numbers for nests and young.

Contributors' names, and the areas they usually observe, are listed at the end of this report, and we take this opportunity to express appreciation for the time and effort expended by each observer.

GREBESTROUGHHERONS

- Red-necked Grebe**—Several present all period, no nests or young observed, Waubay, N.W.R., RRJ.
- Eared Grebe**—Present all period, no nests or young observed, Waubay N.W.R., RRJ.
- Western Grebe**—None at Rush L., Day Co.; (10 pr., 15 young) plus about (75) adults, 7-29, Spring L., Day Co., KFH.
- Pied-billed Grebe**—(5) broods Waubay N.W.R., KFH; also in Meade, Bon Homme, and Gregory Counties.
- White Pelican**—6-28 on island s. Waubay L., Day Co., est. (170) young plus adults, 7-7 colony at Piyas L., s. Marshall Co., est. (300) young plus adults, KFH; active colony on Drywood L., w. Roberts Co., BKH.
- Double-crested Cormorant**—6-28 island colony s. Waubay L., Day Co., est. (150) young plus adults, 7-7 Piyas L., est. (200) young plus adults, KFH; active colony on Drywood L., w. Roberts Co., BKH; also present at Gavin's Pt., KJH, YBC.
- Great Blue Heron**—7-22 almost 100 percent mortality in colony at 777 Dam, e. Custer Co.; adults gone, two to three dead young in every nest—Game, Fish and Parks Dept. notified; colony was est. at 100 birds in 1974, BN. Small colony on Piyas L., s. Marshall Co., KFH. Also observed at Kadoka Dam, Jackson Co., JLM, EMS; Seymour Dam, w. Perkins Co., AH; in Yankton and Bon Homme Counties, YBC.
- Green Heron**—ONLY reports: Brule Co., JH; Codington Co. (breeding), CMC.
- Snowy Egret**—Unverified report of (5) in Brookings Co., KE.
- Black-crowned Night Heron**—Breeding in Day and Codington Counties.
- American Bittern**—Reported only from Hyde, Codington, and Day Counties.

Waterfowl

- Trumpeter Swan**—(7 ad., 4 imm.) Weta Dam, Jackson Co., EMS, JLM.
- Canada Goose**—(12 nests, 56 young) Waubay N.W.R., common nester in Day and Marshall Counties, KFH; also reported from Gregory and Perkins Counties (GF&P stocking).

Mallard—(30) broods at Waubay N.W.R.; reported also from Rapid City and Hyde Co.

Gadwall—(23) broods, Waubay N.W.R.; ONLY one report received for this and each of the next three species.

Pintail—(4) broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFH.

Blue-winged Teal—(32) broods, Waubay N.W.R.

Northern Shoveler—(3) young in one brood, Waubay N.W.R., KFH.

Wood Duck—Broods present in Day, Bon Homme, and Codington Counties.

Redhead—7-15 to 7-30 Waubay N.W.R. (40) young in 6 broods, KFH.

Ring-necked Duck—(13) young in 2 broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFH.

Canvasback—(35) young in 5 broods, Waubay N.W.R.

Ruddy Duck—(2 m., 3 f.) Rapid City, first sighting in nesting season in ten years, EMS; (2) Burke Lagoon, GLS; (16) in 2 broods, Waubay N.W.R., KFH.

Common Merganser—7-31 Codington Co. (1) CMC. (Probably a cripple or non-breeder. BKH).

HAWKS, FALCONS

Turkey Vulture—7-13 (1) Waubay N.W.R., KFH; reported from Yankton, Custer, Jackson, and Penn. Counties.

Goshawk—6-24 Rochford, Penn. C., nest with dead nestling—reports are that adult was shot—Paul Bartelt.

Red-tailed Hawk—Breeding in Harding, Day and Yankton Counties; also reported from Penn., Custer, Gregory, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Hand, and Potter Counties.

Swainson's Hawk—Observed in Custer, Brule, Potter, and Hutchinson Counties; nesting at Waubay N.W.R., KFH.

Ferruginous Hawk—ONLY reports were from Jackson and Stanley Counties, EMS, JLM, and Karen Smith.

Golden Eagle—(1) w. Jackson Co., JLM; nest with (2) young, Custer Co., BN.

Marsh Hawk—Reported from Day, Brookings, Aurora, Yankton, Penn., Buffalo, Hand, Brule, and Potter Counties.

Peregrine Falcon—6-16 (1) Haakon Co., on fence post by highway. Noted streamlined appearance, slate-gray back and dark head. As we passed the bird it turned its head sideways to reveal the black markings down the side of the face. Karen Smith, Larry Lochar, USFWS (fide RLH).

American Kestrel—(4) young fledged from the nest in chimney of old house in Reliance, WCT; also reported from Brookings, Yankton, Brule, Penn., Custer, and Meade Counties.

Hawk (sp)—7-23 (1) probable Red-tailed. Evidently a pure albino, without any black markings, and with feet and bill of the same light color—blue or gray. It was a beautiful bird—snowy white as the whitest of Snowy Owls. We had good views of the bird at rest and in flight. Seen near Gary, Deuel Co., Randy Thompson, BKH.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

Sharp-tailed Grouse—None seen all season, usually common, Perkins Co., AH.

Bobwhite—Reports from Yankton and Gregory Counties (down in Gregory Co.).

Ring-necked Pheasant—Numbers down statewide due to lack of habitat.

Gray Partridge—Reported from Yankton, Brookings, Hyde, and Perkins Counties.

Virginia Rail—(1) DOR, Gavin's Pt., YBC; (4 imm.) Roberts Co. brood of (4) and brood of (3) Day Co., KFH; 6-3to 6-27 (8) answered to call on tape recording, Rapid City area, JLM.

Sora Rail—(2 imm.) Day Co., KFH; 6-9 (3) answered call on tape recording, Rapid City area, JLM.

American Coot—Reported from Yankton and Penn. Counties; plus (250 imm.) in one slough in Roberts Co., KFH.

SHORE BIRDS, GULLS, TERNS

Killdeer—Present and breeding in all areas of So. Dak. Numbers down, Penn. Co., BHAS.

American Woodcock—7-22 (1) Gary Guich, Roberts Co., BKH.

Common Snipe—(1) Penn. Co., JLM.

Long-billed Curlew—(1) Harding Co., EEM.

Upland Sandpiper—Breeding in Day and Hyde Counties; also reported from Aurora, Yankton, Clay, Hutchinson, Hand, Brule, Buffalo, Potter, Tripp, Mellette, Penn., and Meade Counties.

Spotted Sandpiper—Only reports: Hutchinson, Bon Homme, Gregory, and Penn. Counties.

Willet—Present during period, Hyde Co., JH; adults present all period, Waubay N.W.R., RRJ.

Marbled Godwit—Observed in Hyde, Aurora, Day and Codington Counties.

Wilson's Phalarope—(100) Seavey's Pond, Meade Co., 6-24, JLM; (4) Burke Lagoon 6-14, GLS; (6) Spink Co. 7-20, RLH.

Ring-billed Gull—Adults present all period, Day Co., KFH; colony on Drywood L., Roberts Co., BKH; (30) Spink Co., RLH; (1) Gavin's Pt., YBC.

Franklin's Gull—ONLY report: (1) Douglas Co., YBC.

Common Tern—Colony on Drywood L., Roberts Co., BKH.

Least Tern—(3) near Gavin's Pt., KJH.

Black Tern—Reported from Yankton, Bon Homme, Codington, and Gregory Counties.

DOVES, OWLS, KINGFISHER

Mourning Dove—A good population over the entire state, and generally good nesting success. (150) banded, Gregory Co., GLS.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Observed in Yankton, Hutchinson, Hughes, Penn., and Perkins Counties.

Black-billed Cuckoo—Observed in Yankton, Clay, Brookings, Aurora, Hyde, Buffalo, and Hughes Counties.

Screech Owl—(2) all period, Brookings Co., ERE; 6-20 (2) drinking and bathing in bird bath after dark, in full view of 12 people on a lighted patio, Burke, GLS.

Great Horned Owl—Yankton, Day, and Perkins Counties.

Burrowing Owl—Observed in Penn., Custer, Jackson, Mellette, Gregory, Buffalo, Hyde, Hand, and Aurora Counties. 7-14 (1) Day Co., first sighting in Day Co. in many years, RRJ.

Long-eared Owl—7-23 (2 ad., 5 imm.), a family group, perched in grove in Badlands, RAW.

Whip-poor-will—6-4 (1) Gavin's Pt., YBC.



Red-bellied Woodpecker with young

—Photo by Willis Hall

- Common Nighthawk**—Observed in Brookings, Buffalo, Jackson, Penn., and Perkins Counties. Young fledged in Hughes Co., RLH.
- Chimney Swift**—Observed in Clay, Yankton, Gregory, and Penn. Counties.
- White-throated Swift**—5-29 nesting colony, Custer Co., SDOU field trip.
- Belted Kingfisher**—Reported from Codington, Yankton, Gregory, and Penn. Counties.

WOODPECKERS

- Common Flicker**—Common and nesting over the entire state. Appears to be increasing in numbers.
- Red-headed Woodpecker**—(9) Rapid City area, BHAS; 8 nesting pairs in Burke area, young out of nest and being fed last 2 weeks of July, appears to be increasing in numbers, GLS; also reported from Brookings, Bon Homme, and Brule Counties.
- Lewis' Woodpecker**—(3) Rapid City area, BLG, CY, LW.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—5-20 Sodak Park, Roberts Co., pair at nest hole, BKH; (2) Penn. Co., JLM.
- Hairy Woodpecker**—Present in most areas all period; 1 nest with young during period, BN.
- Downy Woodpecker**—Present in all areas: 6-15 adults feeding young in nest cavity, Burke, GLS.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS

- Eastern Kingbird**—Nesting in Gregory and Hyde Counties. Also reported from Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Hand, and Potter Counties.
- Western Kingbird**—Normal numbers on all BBS, JH; fewer numbers in Jackson Co., EMS.
- Great Crested Flycatcher**—Reported from Badlands, RAW, and from Yankton Co., YBC.
- Eastern Phoebe**—Nesting in Brookings Co., ERE.
- Say's Phoebe**—Nesting in Gregory and Perkins Counties, GLS, AH.
- Willow Flycatcher**—Reported from Yankton Co., YBC; Potter Co., JH; Hutchinson Co., KE. Only (3) on BBS, NJH.
- Eastern Wood Pewee**—Observed in Yankton and Spink Counties.
- Western Wood Pewee**—7-5 to 7-27 av. (2) on any field trip, Penn. Co., BHAS.
- Horned Lark**—Present and breeding statewide. Increase in numbers on BBS, JH, NJH.
- Violet-green Swallow**—Av. (100) swarmed on each Rapid City intersection on cloudy, damp days, BHAS.
- Tree Swallow**—ONLY report: (2) Rapid City, BLG.
- Bank Swallow**—ONLY report: (2) Rapid City, BLG.
- Rough-winged Swallow**—Nesting in Clay and Penn. Counties. Also reported from Yankton, Bon Homme, Buffalo, and Gregory Counties.
- Barn Swallow**—Nest reports from Hyde (with notes on treated young), Butte, Perkins, Brookings, and Clay Counties. Late nesting: incubating again last week of July, Brookings Co., NJH; young fledged 9-3 Hyde Co., JH. Observed statewide.
- Cliff Swallow**—Nesting in Hutchinson, Yankton, Hand, Buffalo, Brule, Penn., Gregory, and Jackson Counties.
- Purple Martins**—Six active houses in Highmore, JH; 7-12 to 7-30 (16) banded, four successful nests, s. Brookings Co., NJH; approx. 60 nesting pairs, est. (200) fledglings, banded (132) young and (16) adults, Burke, GLS.

CORVIDS, CHICKADEES, WRENS

- Blue Jay**—Present and nesting statewide.
- Black-billed Magpie**—4-27 (2) Gavin's Pt., YBC; young observed at Rapid City, BLG.
- Common Crow**—Present in small number throughout the state all period.
- Pinyon Jay**—Av. (30) daily, Rapid City, BLG.
- Black-capped Chickadee**—Breeding in Yankton Co.; observed in Brookings, Gregory, and Perkins Counties.
- White-breasted Nuthatch**—Breeding in Yankton Co.; present all period, Clay Co.; observed in Gregory and Penn. Counties.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch**—(2) near Sturgis, JLM; 6-1 Reliance (1), late date, WCT.
- Brown Creeper**—7-20 (1) James R. Valley, Spink Co., RLH.
- House Wren**—Reported from Penn., Perkins, Yankton, and Hyde Counties.
- Rock Wren**—Nesting at Rapid City, observed av. (6) daily, BLG.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, SHRIKE

- Mockingbird**—6-30 (1) s. Tripp Co., BBS, GLS.
Gray Catbird—Nesting in Perkins Co., AH; reports from Penn., Yankton, and Hyde Counties.
Brown Thrasher—Common and nesting statewide. Two nests with young, Yankton and Hyde Counties.
American Robin—Common and nesting statewide.
Swainson's Thrush—6-12 (1) Penn. Co., JLM.
Eastern Bluebird—Nesting in Clay and Yankton Counties. ONLY reports.
Mountain Bluebird—Nesting in Penn. and Meade Counties.
Golden-crowned Kinglet—6-20 (3) Penn. Co., EAS. ONLY report.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet—6-20 (1) singing, Penn. Co., EAS. ONLY report.
Cedar Waxwing—6-1 (3), 6-30 (8) Yankton Co., YBC. ONLY report.
Loggerhead Shrike—Reported breeding in Yankton and Clay Counties. Also observed in Bon Homme, Buffalo, Gregory (many pairs), Jackson, Custer, and Penn. Counties.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

- Bell's Vireo**—6-12 (1) singing, Hyde Co., 6-25 (2) Buffalo Co., JH.
Solitary Vireo—(1) on nest, Custer Co., JLM; (2) Sturgis, (3) Penn. Co., BHAS.
Red-eyed Vireo—(7) including a family group, Rapid City, GRB; (1) Pierre, RLH.
Warbling Vireo—(8) Yankton Co., (2) Douglas Co., YBC; total (10) on BBS, NJH.
Northern Parula—6-27 (1) male, Sodak Park, Roberts Co., third year a sighting has been made during the summer, BKH.
Yellow Warbler—Reports from Yankton, Hyde, Butte, Penn., and Mellette Counties.
Blackpoll Warbler—6-23 (1) Rapid City, GRB.
Ovenbird—Observed in Meade and Penn. Counties. 6-26 agitated pair, Sodak Park, Roberts Co., brood probably present but not located, singing male at same location on 6-11, BKH.
Common Yellowthroat—Reports from Brookings, Lake, Miner, Yankton, Hyde, Hand, Brule, Buffalo, and Potter Counties.
Yellow-breasted Chat—(2) Penn. Co., JLM.
American Redstart—(3) Penn. Co., BHAS. ONLY report.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS

- Bobolink**—Observed in Hutchinson, Gregory, and Buffalo Counties. Lower numbers on BBS, NJH.
Western Meadowlark—Common and nesting statewide.
Yellow-headed Blackbird—Reports from Hyde, Brule, Yankton, Bon Homme, and Gregory Counties. Total (42) on BBS, NJH.
Red-winged Blackbird—Common and nesting statewide.
Orchard Oriole—Two pair nesting in Butte Co., IW; also reported from Hyde, Hand, Potter, Yankton, Hutchinson, Penn., Custer, and Mellette Counties. Total (45) on BBS, NJH.
Northern Oriole—Nesting in Clay and Yankton Counties; also reported from Hyde and Penn.

Counties. There should be more reports for this species.

- Brewer's Blackbird**—Nesting in Badlands; (8) all period, c. Brookings Co., ERE; reports from Meade and Potter Counties.
Common Grackle—Common and breeding statewide. (130) banded at Burke, GLS.
Brown-headed Cowbird—Common and breeding statewide. Increased numbers on all BBS, JH.
Western Tanager—A pair nested in Highmore and fledged (4), observed frequently by Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Drew (fide JH); also present in Penn. and Meade Counties.

FINCHES, SPARROWS

- Cardinal**—Reports from Clay, Yankton, and Hutchinson Counties.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Nesting in Yankton Co.; (1) in Rapid City 6-2 to 6-17, LRP; reports also from Brookings, Hutchinson, and Clay Counties.
Black-headed Grosbeak—Nesting in Rapid City area, BHAS; banded at Pierre, RLH; present in Gregory Co.
Blue Grosbeak—Reports from Badlands, Tripp, Hutchinson, Bon Homme, and Yankton Counties.
Indigo Bunting—Reports from Brookings, Yankton, Clay, Bon Homme, Brule, and Penn. Counties.
Lazuli Bunting—Av. (1) daily, Rapid City, BLG.
Dickcissel—Very low numbers, total (6) on BBS in eastern So. Dak., compared to (43) in 1974, NJH; (4) on Buffalo Co. BBS, compared to (19) in 1975, none on other 3 surveys, JH; also reported from Yankton, Hutchinson, and Meade Counties.
Pine Siskin—Reported from Penn. Co.
American Goldfinch—Reported from Penn., Gregory, Brule, Bon Homme, Yankton, and Brookings Counties.
Red Crossbill—Present at Rapid City.
Rufous-sided Towhee—Five broods at Rapid City. ONLY report.
Lark Bunting—Reported from Yankton, Hutchinson, Aurora, Lake, Miner, Hyde, and Hand Counties. None observed in NE part of state, BKH.
Savannah Sparrow—Total (4) on BBS, eastern So. Dak., NJH.
Grasshopper Sparrow—Drastic reduction in numbers on all BBS, with a total of (4) for four surveys, compared with (69) in 1975; JH; total (37) on BBS, NJH; 7-3 (31) Hutchinson Co., KE; also reported from Meade, Custer, Penn., and Yankton Counties.
Vesper Sparrow—Reports from Yankton, Clay, Lake, Miner, Buffalo, and Custer Counties.
Lark Sparrow—Observed in Penn., Brule, Clay and Yankton Counties.
Dark-eyed Junco (Wh.-winged)—Reports from Penn. and Meade Counties.
Chipping Sparrow—ONLY reports: from Penn. and Yankton Counties.
Field Sparrow—Reported from Clay, Yankton, Gregory, Brule, and Penn. Counties.
Swamp Sparrow—ONLY reports: Lake and Miner Co. BBS, NJH.

Song Sparrow—Reports from Brookings, Clay, Spink, and Hand Counties; breeding in Yankton and Penn. Counties.

Chestnut-collared Longspur—Nesting in Harding and Hyde Counties (good data from EEM); also reported from Miner, Buffalo, Potter, Hand, Brule, Meade, and Custer Counties.

CONTRIBUTORS

WEST RIVER—

(BHAS)—Black Hills Audubon Society—Members: G.R. Bachmann, GRB; Violet L. Brosky, VB; G.L. DeFord, DeF; Bonnie L. Green, BLG; Jocie L. Mortimer, JLM; L.R. Palmerton, LRP; Esther M. Serr, EMS; Elizabeth A. Southmayd, EAS; Norma J. Thomsen, NJT; Leota Williams, LW; Clara Yarger, CY.

(AH)—Alfred and Gertrice Hinds—w. Perkins Co.

(EEM)—Ernest E. Miller—w. Meade Co., s. Harding Co.

(BN)—Barney N. Nordstrom—e. Custer Co.

(GLS)—Galen L. Steffen—Gregory Co.

(WCT)—Walter C. Thietje—Lyman Co.

(IW)—Irma Weyler—s. Butte Co.

(RAW)—Richard A. Will—Badlands National Monument, Jackson Co.

EAST RIVER

(CMC)—C.M. Carlson, Ft. Peck, Montana, visiting at Watertown, Codington Co.

(KE)—Kim Eckert—Hutchinson Co.

(ERE)—Esther R. Edie—C. Brookings Co.

(BKH)—Bruce K. Harris—Deuel Co., Roberts Co.

(JH)—June Harter—Hyde Co.

(RLH)—Richard L. Hill—Hughes Co., Spink Co.

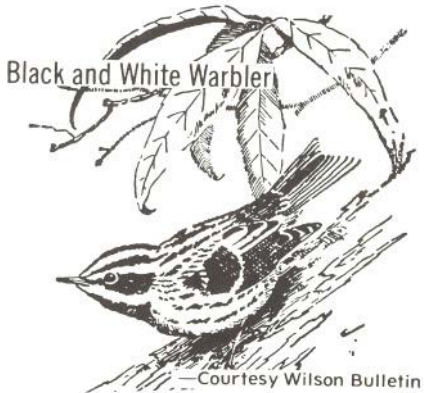
(NJH)—Nelda J. Holden—s. Brookings Co.

(KJH)—Karolyn J. Hoover—s. Clay Co.

(YBC)—Yankton Bird Club—(Willis and Rosamond Hall, Douglas Chapman, Evelyn Lien, Roy Parks)—Yankton, Clay, Bon Homme Counties.

(RRJ, KFH, EJF)—Robert J. Johnson, Kent F. Hall, Edmund J. Fromelt—Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day Co.

(BBS)—Breeding Bird Surveys—Cooperators: KE, NJH, WH, JH, GLS.



—Courtesy Wilson Bulletin

1975 Banding Reports

BANDING AT RAPID CITY

N.R. Whitney

The following is a list of the birds that I banded at Rapid City in 1975 while carrying on a long-ranged study of longevity and movements of locally-breeding Pinyon Jays and White-winged Juncos.

Species	Number Banded
Blue Jay	1
Pinyon Jay	25
Black'capped Chickadee	4
American Robin	1
Evening Grosbeak	1
Pine Siskin	172
American Goldfinch	10
Red Crossbill	1
Rufous-sided Towhee (spotted form)	1
White-winged Junco	87
Slate-colored Junco	6
Oregon Junco	1
Tree Sparrow	48
Chipping Sparrow	2
White-crowned Sparrow	3

1975 BANDING AT BURKE

Galen L. Steffen

In July 1975, I received my banding permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The remainder of the year was spent in becoming more familiar with the methods used in trapping and mist-netting birds. During this time I banded a total of 167 individuals of 14 species.

My main banding project is (a) a study to determine what percent of the Purple Martins hatched in Burke return in succeeding years, and (b) the life span of the birds.

The following is a list of the species and number of individuals banded in 1975.

Species	Number Banded
Purple Martin	12
Blue Jay	6
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Brown Thrasher	15
American Robin	65
Cedar Waxwing	1

Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	9
Northern Oriole (Baltimore)	12
Common Grackle	3
American Goldfinch	1
Dark-eyed Junco (Sl-col.)	15
Tree Sparrow	8
Harris' Sparrow	17

1975 BANDING AT SPEARFISH

Tom Hays

With the exception of the Mountain Bluebirds, which were banded along Inyan Kara Creek in northwestern Wyoming, the birds in the following list were banded in my yard in Spearfish. The main thrust was with Tree Sparrows, which came through the yard in large numbers in the spring.

Species	Number Banded
Common Flicker	1
Downy Woodpecker	5
Willow Flycatcher	1
Tree Swallow	1
Blue Jay	6
Black-capped Chickadee	16
Gray Catbird	2
American Robin	14
Swainson's Thrush	1
Mountain Bluebird	5
Bohemian Waxwing	23
Northern Shrike	1
Starling	11
Red-eyed Vireo	2
Black-and-white Warbler	1
Yellow Warbler	1
Ovenbird	1
Common Yellowthroat	1
Red-winged Blackbird	4
Brewer's Blackbird	1
Common Grackle	42
Black-headed Grosbeak	4
Indigo Bunting	1
Lazuli Bunting (incl. hybrids)	9
Evening Grosbeak	28
American Goldfinch	2
White-winged Junco	33
Slate-colored Junco	67
Oregon Junco (incl. hybrids)	6
Tree Sparrow	255

Snowy Egrets: Spring 1975

(Continued from page 68)

date about April 22, one of the earliest spring records we have for Snowy Egrets in South Dakota.

I had been looking for Snowy Egrets in the state since 1966, with no luck; seeing two in the same year was momentous. It was even more amazing when I found a third Snowy Egret, on May 21, 1975, at Coteau Lake, Deuel County. I observed all field marks for this individual, noting that the lores were not a bright yellow, and considered the possibility that it was the same bird I had seen in Grant County on May 6. It seemed unlikely, though, since the distance between the two sites is about 17 miles.

A compilation of Snowy Egret records for South Dakota shows that the species has been reported 20 times, beginning in 1940, but there were only four records through 1959. From 1964 through 1975, Snowy Egrets were observed in the state almost every year, with three records occurring in 1965, and four in 1975. Most records occurred during the months of April, May, and August (3, 6, and 4 respectively), spanning the period of April through October.

This beautiful and interesting bird might be looked for as a nesting species in South Dakota sometime in the future, as it has bred about 80 miles east of Browns Valley, Minnesota. Birders should be careful not to confuse the Snowy Egret with the Cattle Egret, which is about the same size, or with the much larger Great Egret.—Bruce K. Harris, Clear Lake

Chipping Sparrow	5
Clay-colored Sparrow	6
Harris' Sparrow	61
White-crowned Sparrow	19
Lincoln's Sparrow	4
Song Sparrow	4

Spring Meeting Accommodations

The SDOU Spring Meeting will be at Bison on May 20-22, 1977. For your convenience, we are listing the available accommodations, and recommending early reservations. Details of the meeting program will be in the March BIRD NOTES.

BISON—Central City Motel—Phone 244-5234—Rates are for upstairs and downstairs. Upstairs: Each room has two full-size beds, bath, phone; one person, \$14.50; two persons, \$20.50. Downstairs: One full bed per room; \$12.50 for two persons. A sleeping bag for children may be brought in for \$2.50. Rooms are also available in 18 to 20 private homes.

LEMMON—Kuilman's Motel, Phone 374-3886; Roy's Motel, Phone 374-3841; Inn-Towne Motel, Phone 374-3821.

SHADEHILL DAM—Cabins at Fisherman's Haven; camping facilities.

REVA PASS, IN SLIM BUTTES—Camping facilities.

Request For Information

Color-Marked Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers

In 1976 and 1977 the Surinam Forest Service plans to color-band large numbers of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers along the Surinam coast, northeastern South America. The objective of this study is to obtain more information about the origin of the birds visiting Surinam and about their migration routes to and from this country. All birds will be banded above the tarsus (knee) with one standard aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service band and two orange color-bands of about the same size as the aluminum band.

Should you see any of these birds, please write to **ARIE L. SPAANS, SURINAM FOREST SERVICE, P.O. BOX 436, PARAMARIBO, SURINAM, SOUTH AMERICA**, mentioning species, location and date of observations, the position of the aluminum and color-bands (left or right, and, if more than one band is on a leg, which band is above and which below), and number of color-banded birds involved.

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In Memoriam

Caroline Ruth Habeger

July 24, 1895 - October 14, 1976

Ruth Habeger was a charter member of South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, president of the organization in 1960 and 1961, and a member of the Board of Directors from 1949 to 1969. Much of her professional life was spent as an instructor in the Biology Department of Dakota State College. She was honored by that institution in February 1976 when the new Science Center was dedicated to her and named The C. Ruth Habeger Science Center.

Ruth had an enthusiastic interest in ornithology, and frequently contributed records from the Madison area. She also participated actively in establishing plots of native grasses and forbs near a sod house in the Prairie Village at Madison, and helped through her garden club to purchase the first native prairie tract in South Dakota—the Altamont Prairie. Her accomplishments will continue to be reminders of the concern of a dedicated friend of wildlife and habitat. In addition to these activities, she was an active member of numerous professional and social organizations throughout South Dakota.

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Goshawk

The picture was taken a few minutes after the bird had finished feeding.

—Photo by Willis Hall