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—Photo by Kim Hamann

Least Bittern Nestlings

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President's Page

"WHAT IS in a name?" is an age-old question that now faces our organization. Does the name "South Dakota Ornithologists' Union" lack the appeal that may be necessary for attracting new members, or is our problem one of dedication to ornithology to the exclusion of some of the other categories of nature studies? These questions were discussed at the 1976 Fall Meeting when a few of the members proposed that our organization might be strengthened if our interests were broadened to include additional biological and botanical subjects, and our name changed, for example, to "South Dakota Audubon Society." Other names mentioned were: "South Dakota Nature Society," "The South Dakota Naturalist," and "The Dakota Environmentalist." Remember, however, that our present name has served us in good faith for 30 years, and it may be difficult to select a replacement.

Members of the committee appointed to study the proposal are: Ken Husmann, Esther Edie, and Bill Lemons. The results of their study will be presented at the 1977 Fall Meeting in Vermillion. Presumably, each of you is concerned about the objectives and the name of our organization, and you will communicate your views to the committee members to assist them in their efforts to present a complete report.

The spring migration in South Dakota merits a comment. Because of the early and unusually warm spring, the birds moved through rapidly, and at advanced arrival dates. The weather for migration was excellent, so the birds must have taken advantage of it to fly across South Dakota without stopping. As a result, the birding in May was unexciting with its limited numbers of warblers and sparrows. It was fairly common to see only one or two of the warbler species. The winter resident species also migrated early, with the juncos gone by the middle of April. It will be interesting to learn how the spring of 1977 affected the migration of the birds in other parts of the country.

Last, but not least, a salute to Bison, the little town with the big sky, that hosted our Spring Meeting. A special note of appreciation is extended to Gertrice and Alfred Hinds, to Charles, Betty and Mavis Tufty, to the Grand River Electric, and to all the others whose spirit of friendliness soared out as though on the wings of a Ferruginous Hawk drifting over the timeless prairie. I thank you.—**Nelda Holden, Brookings**

Organochlorine Residues in Some Fish-eating Birds

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In April and May, 1975, several wild birds associated with aquatic habitats were observed in moribund condition in Marshall and Day Counties of northeastern South Dakota. These included one immature Bald Eagle (**Haliaetus leucocephalus**), one Great Blue Heron (**Ardea herodias**), and one Common Egret (**Casmerodius albus**). The eagle and egret were observed for two days, and collected upon death. The heron was collected alive. In addition, one Great Blue Heron was found dead.

These birds were presented for examination to the Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory and the Chemistry Department at South Dakota State University. The live heron was in tremors and died several hours after being received by the laboratory. It was dehydrated and its gastrointestinal tract was empty. This heron, the eagle, and the egret were all emaciated, with depleted body fat reserves. The heron that was collected dead had substantial body fat deposits.

Liver and-or brain tissues were analyzed for organochlorine insecticide and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) residues by gas chromatography according to previously described methods (Greichus et al., 1973; Call et al., 1974). PCB quantities were estimated by comparing sample chromatogram peak areas with corresponding peak areas of Aroclor 1254 or 1260 standards at retention times where other organochlorine interferences were not present. Thin-layer chromatography was used for confirmation, and additional verification of DDE in the live-collected heron was made by mass spectrometry as described in other work (Greichus et al., 1974). Liver samples were screened for lead, mercury, arsenic, antimony, bismuth, silver, sulfur, selenium and tellurium by techniques described in Bamford (1951).

Insecticide and PCB residues are presented in Table 1. None of the heavy metals or other elements that were screened for were detected in abnormal amounts. In the heron that was collected alive, the tremors noted prior to death and the very high brain and liver DDE residues led us to conclude that DDE poisoning was an important, if not the major, factor in the death of this bird. A more detailed account of the observations made on this bird has been published elsewhere (Call et al., 1976).

Liver samples only were saved for analysis in the egret, eagle, and heron that was collected dead in the field. Although there is a considerable body of literature on liver residues in birds exposed to organochlorines, brain residue levels have been shown to be the best indicators of the degree of poisoning and of actual cause of death (Stickel et al.,

1966 and 1969; Greichus and Hannon, 1973). Therefore, subsequent statements on possible toxic effects from the organochlorines detected are inferential from the liver data and the literature.

Liver organochlorine residues in the eagle and in the dead field-collected heron were relatively low and quite similar to levels in Double-crested Cormorants (**Phalacrocorax auritus**) and White Pelicans (**Pelecanus erythrorhynchos**) sampled from apparently normal healthy wild populations (Greichus **et al.**, 1973). Wild birds suspected of having been poisoned by some of the same compounds in Table 1, or birds experimentally poisoned, usually have much higher liver residues than those observed here (Walker **et al.**, 1967; Reichel **et al.**, 1969; Stickel and Stickel, 1969; Stickel **et al.**, 1969). Therefore, it appears as though this eagle and heron died from causes other than poisoning by these organochlorines.

Organochlorines, however, may well be implicated in the death of the egret; particularly in view of the emaciated condition of the bird, and its liver endrin level. Birds that have residues in their body fat depots, which are using fat for energy and are not replacing it by normal feeding activity (such as in migration, nesting, or sickness), will mobilize the residues stored in the fat. As the fat depots are depleted, the fat-soluble pesticide residues accumulate in the brain lipids, causing organochlorine intoxication. This has been experimentally demonstrated for several organochlorine compounds (Stickel **et al.**, 1969; Stickel **et al.**, 1973; Greichus and Hannon, 1973; Ludke, 1976). In reports where wild birds were presumed to have died from pesticide poisoning, brain levels of DDT in two Bald Eagles and DDE, DDD, DDT, dieldrin, heptachlor epoxide and BHC isomers in an American Kestrel (**Falco tinnunculus**) were greater than liver residue levels (Walker **et al.**, 1967; Reichel **et al**, 1969).

Bobwhite quail (**Colinus virginianus**) that died from experimental feeding dosages of endrin had brain residues averaging 1.08 ppm, with one brain endrin level as low as 0.34 ppm (Ludke, 1976). If the egret of the present report

TABLE I
RESIDUES OF ORGANOCHLORINE INSECTICIDES AND PCB'S FROM BIRDS COLLECTED IN SOUTH DAKOTA (SPRING, 1975)

	Residues in Bird Tissues (ppm, wet weight basis)				
	Heron[1]		Heron[2]	Egret[2]	Eagle[2]
Compound	Brain	Liver	Liver	Liver	Liver
p,p'-DDE	246.33	569.74	1.21	22.71	0.46
p,p'-DDD	0.98	1.63	0.37	0.64	0.24
p,p'-DDT	0.60	0.64	0.26	0.32	0.05
Dieldrin	0.47	1.06	0.20	0.63	0.47
Lindane	<0.05	<0.05	ND[3]	<0.05	<0.05
Heptachlor Epoxide	0.35	0.51	<0.05	0.19	<0.05
Endrin	ND	ND	ND	1.27	ND
PCB's	1.00	2.50	0.42	8.08	3.83

[1]Brought into laboratory alive and tremoring.
[2]Collected dead in the field.
[3]Residue not detected.

had mobilized its residues so the brain endrin level approximated the liver residue of 1.27 ppm, endrin poisoning alone could have been a factor in the death of this bird. In addition, residues of the other compounds, particularly DDE, dieldrin, and PCB's, may all have contributed to produce an additive effect. Thus, there is some likelihood that this egret suffered from organochlorine poisoning.

In summary, of four birds that were collected and presented for analysis in the spring of 1975, organochlorine poisoning was evident in a Great Blue Heron and implicated in a Common Egret. Organochlorine poisoning did not appear to be involved in the deaths of a Bald Eagle or of a second Great Blue Heron.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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—Photo by Willis Hall

Least Tern

The tern was on a sand bar a few miles east of Little Eagle, Corson County.

Cooper's Hawk: Third Nest Record in South Dakota

Bruce K. Harris

A brief reference to this nesting record was published under the season reports in BIRD NOTES (27:45), but the record calls for a more detailed account for several reasons. First, it is only the third record for South Dakota, the previous ones coming from Sanborn County in 1889 (BN, 7:22), and a comparatively recent record for Sodak Park, Roberts County, which I located on May 27, 1946.

Secondly, and more important, the 1975 nesting is noteworthy because it is evident that the Cooper's Hawk still nests in South Dakota. It is undoubtedly being overlooked as a rare nesting species in many areas of the state, as is indicated by dates I have accumulated on the species in Roberts County and elsewhere during the past ten years. The bird merits special attention from South Dakota birders, particularly since it is nearing the endangered species status in many parts of the United States.

For several years, I have tried to find nesting Cooper's Hawks in South Dakota, an interest that developed from the discovery of the 1946 nest. That nest was about 25 feet up in an ash tree located in heavy oak-ash-basswood woodland. It was only about 200 yards from several cottages, a situation that prob bly would not occur often with this shy species which apparently abandons its nest with a minimum of disturbance during the breeding season. The nest contained five eggs; I made only the one nest check, and do not know whether the nest was successful.

On May 15, 1975, I flushed a Cooper's Hawk from its nest above a heavily wooded ravine in Sodak Park. The nest was about 40 feet up in a large ash tree located one-half mile north of the 1946 nest locale. The understory of the ash-oak-basswood woodland contained gooseberry, currant, and serviceberry, among other shrubs. I had been checking these woodlands in early spring for several years, hoping to find Long-eared Owl or Cooper's Hawk nests; an active nest of the Long-eared Owl (unsuccessful) was located in this vicinity on May 14, 1969 (BN, 23:50).

I was alerted to the Cooper's Hawk nest when I saw the bird's tail projecting from the nest; the adult did not flush until I had circled its tree, trying to get a clear view of the bird. It silently flew from the nest and did not return until I left. This behavior was repeated on the two later nest checks, and it is evidently characteristic of most Cooper's Hawks, according to available literature. It is an important trait to note, because it can result in one's overlooking active nests of the species in heavy cover.

On the two subsequent visits, the adult left the nest before I was within 100 yards of the nest tree, and I had only glimpses of the departing bird. If I had not been looking carefully on each visit, I might easily have missed seeing the bird leave the nest. However, Cooper's Hawks are sometimes very noisy and aggressive about the nest after the eggs have hatched.

I did not see or hear another Cooper's Hawk in the area during my visits to the nest, and concluded that this bird did not have a mate helping her in the nesting attempt. Possibly the mate had been killed; according to Bent (**North American Birds of Prey**, 1937), both sexes work at nest building and incubation, and undoubtedly both adults feed the young.

Nest contents were not checked on any of my visits, primarily because I was afraid the adult would desert the nest, but also because the nest tree would have been a particularly difficult one to climb. I intended to get a count of the young after they were grown and visible. Unfortunately, the nesting was unsuccessful.

On May 24, I had only a quick look at the bird on the nest. On June 6, I believe that I saw the adult flying away from the nest in the heavy foliage that was present at this later date. Assuming that nesting was progressing satisfactorily, I did not check again until June 20, hoping that the young would be visible in the nest and could be counted. Much to my disappointment, I found no activity around the nest. Searching on the ground under the tree, I found one egg with a large hole in it, suggestive of the work of crows. The egg was preserved as a specimen and evidence of nesting.

Thus, as in the case of several nests of Long-eared Owls which I have located (BN, 23:50), it appears that Cooper's Hawks have minimal success in bringing off young in South Dakota, and this fact may account for the scarcity of the species as a breeding bird in this state. The Crigheads (**Hawks, Owls and Wildlife**, 1956, p. 229) give us some information in this regard as follows: "Certain Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and Marsh Hawks were observed to build nests and defend territories, yet failed to lay eggs. Reasons for this behavior appeared to vary and were thought to include inter-specific intolerances, senility, and environmental disturbances. The Cooper's Hawk was most prone to exhibit this behavior. Its habit of frequently building two or even three nests may reflect the extremely high-strung temperament which seems to be characteristic of the Cooper's Hawk in southern Michigan."

I believe that the Cooper's Hawk is a regular, if rare, nesting species in South Dakota, and is being overlooked by our observers. One reason may be the secretive habits of the bird around the nest (at least up until the time the eggs hatch), which I have described above. But another aspect may simply be that many observers are not familiar with the nesting habits of the bird and assume that birds seen in late April and May are migrants. This inference is not at all reliable; the Cooper's Hawk is an early nesting species, regularly having eggs in nests by the first week of May in Minnesota (Roberts, **Birds of Minnesota**, p. 307), and in North Dakota (Stewart, **Breeding Birds of North Dakota**, p. 90). B.J. Rose observed nest-building at Bismarck, North Dakota, on April 16 (Stewart, p. 90). Therefore, it is reasonable that most, if not all birds observed in South Dakota during the month of May are nesting individuals, and many observed in late April may be breeding birds.

I have May records for the Cooper's Hawk at Sodak Park for 1967, 1970, 1971 and 1973; at Sica Hollow I have observed them in May of 1970, 1971 and 1972. In Deuel County I have recorded Cooper's Hawks during May 1973 (two locations), and on April 30, 1975. I found them in Tripp County May 4, 1970. In addition to these late spring records, I have found the species in various counties in South Dakota in early fall, prior to the time we might expect to find them migrating from the breeding territories.

The Cooper's Hawk should be found in South Dakota as a nesting species in any locality where heavy, fairly isolated woodlands are situated--the major river drainages such as the Missouri, James, Big Sioux, White, Cheyenne, Moreau, and Grand; the well-wooded areas of Newton Hills, Sica Hollow, and Gary Creek; and in many areas in the Black Hills. I am convinced that if some effort is expended during the proper time of the year, we can fill the extensive gaps present in our understanding of the distribution of this interesting hawk in our state.—**Box 605, Clear Lake 57226**

Winter Season 1976-77

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

The December 1 to February 28 season was noteworthy for the birds that were not present. As a result, most contributors found the period unexciting, but it was through their combined reports that we were able to ascertain what parts of the state were affected, and to what extent.

Belle Fourche was one of the few places where feeders were visited by unusual numbers of birds. Most of the feeders in the state had noticeably fewer numbers and species. There were very few northern finches; Bohemian Waxwings were the most commonly reported northern visitors. Uncommon species include a Barred Owl, Tufted Titmouse, Pygmy Nuthatches, Varied Thrush, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The Badlands had good numbers of Short-eared Owls and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches.

In most cases, temperatures were average in December, below normal in January, and mild in February. Snow cover was lacking or far below normal until the last week of February when portions of the state received a rain that turned to heavy, wet snow.

Winter Records

GREBES, HERON, WATERFOWL

PIED-BILLED GREBE—(1) present all period, Rapid City, BHAS; 2-27 Gavin's Pt. (1) R. Parks (fide WH).

GREAT BLUE HERON—12-23 se Yankton Co. near Missouri R. (1) WH.

TRUMPETER SWAN—Estimate (150) wintered Lacreek N.W.R., (10) found dead from various causes during period, Harold Burgess, Refuge Manager.

Canada Goose—Wintered in Charles Mix, Gregory, Grant, and Yankton Counties; (930) Ft. Randall, 12-27, WH.

Mallard—Wintered on south end of Big Stone Lake, at Gavin's Pt., and Ft. Randall; 1.24 Gavin's Pt. (22,000) WH.

Pintail—1-23 Gavin's Pt. (1) WH; 1-23 Lacreek N.W.R. (1) RAW.

American Wigeon—2.13 Ft. Randall (2) KE.

Ring-necked Duck—2-26 Pierre (1 m.) RAW.

Canvasback—2-22 Gavin's Pt. (1) WH; 2-26 Pierre (2 m.) RAW.

Lesser **Scaup**—2-13 Ft. Randall (2) KE; 2-26 Pierre (2) RAW.

Common Goldeneye—12-23 (6), 1-21 (6), 2-25 (3) Gavin's Pt., WH; 2-13 present at Ft. Randall Dam, KE.

Hooded Merganser—1.23 (1) Lacreek N.W.R., at least one present all winter according to refuge manager, RAW.

Common Merganser—Present along Missouri R. and at Lacreek N.W.R.; 12.4 Gavin's Pt. (807) WH.

HAWKS, EAGLES

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK—12.9 Rapid City (1) EMS; 1-17 Rapid City (1) in yard, NRW.

COOPER'S HAWK—1-29 Sturgis, Meade Co. (1) NRW.

Red-tailed **Hawk**—Reports from Custer, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix Counties, Pierre, and Gavin's Pt.

Rough-legged Hawk—2-20 between Rapid City and Kimball along Interstate 90, only (8) TMH; also reported from Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Meade, and Yankton Counties, Rapid City and Badlands.

Ferruginous Hawk—12-8 Lacreek N.W.R. (1) Harold Burgess.

Buteo (sp)—1-22 Chas. Mix Co. (2) WH; 2-24 Hyde Co. (1) JH.

Golden Eagle—In Dec., (10) caught in coyote traps in Custer Co., trapper ran the line daily, released the birds, they were apparently unharmed, BMN; 2-20 Rapid City to Sioux Falls along Interstate 90 (15) TMH; also reported from Bon Homme, Chas. Mix, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Lyman, Perkins, Pennington, and Tripp Counties, and Badlands.

Bald Eagle—Reported from Bennett, Bon Homme, Chas. Mix, Davison, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Pennington, and Yankton Counties.

Prairie Falcon—12-13 (3), 1-13 (1) Badlands, RAW; 12-16 Fall River Co. (1) JLM; 12-21 Gregory Co. (1) GLS.

PEREGRINE FALCON—12-8 Lacreek N.W.R. (1) Harold Burgess (fide RAW).

Merlin—12-2 Rapid City (1) specimen, window kill, Ruth Novak. Specimen given to N.R. Whitney. 12-13 Badlands (1) RAW.

American Kestrel—12-27 Chas. Mix Co. (6) WH; also reported from Clay, Jackson, and Yankton Counties.

Falcon (sp)—1-22 (1) small, 1-23 (1) large, Gavin's Pt., WH.

GROUSE TO GULLS

Sharp-tailed Grouse—Numbers down, Perkins Co., AH; 1-14 w. Hughes Co. (7) RLH; 12-21 Gregory Co. (125) GLS.

Ring-necked Pheasant—Numbers still down statewide. Birds wintering well near areas of good cover and food.

Gray Partridge—Reported from Hyde, Day, Roberts, and Perkins Counties.

Wild Turkey—2-19 (14) near fish hatchery, Rapid City, RRM.

American Coot—12-24 (1), 2-18 (1) Gavin's Pt., WH; 2-17 (10) Big Stone Power Plant cooling pond, Roberts Co., KFH.

KILLDEER—12-16, 12-22 (1) se Yankton Co., WH.

Common Snipe—1-3 to 2-24 Sturgis (1) daily, EEM.

GLAUCOUS GULL—12-4 Gavin's Pt. (1) WH.

Herring Gull—12-4 (4), 12-22 (1) Gavin's Pt., WH.

Ring-billed Gull—12-2 (5), 12-7 (3) Gavin's Pt., WH; 2-17 (1) Big Stone Power Plant cooling pond, KFH.

OWLS, WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove—12-7 Gavin's Pt. (1) WH.

Screech Owl—(1) occasionally used flicker house throughout period, Burke, GLS; 12-18 to 2-15 (1) roosted in hollow tree near Fairburn, BMN; 1-21 se Yankton Co. (1) R. Parks (fide WH); 2-21 Turner Co. (1) CB; (4) picked up DOR in Deuel and Roberts Counties during period, BKH.

Great Horned Owl—Reported from Yankton, Turner, Clay, Day, Hyde, Lyman, Gregory, Custer, Pennington, and Butte Counties.

Snowy Owl—Average flight year. Reports from Chas. Mix, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Roberts, Brule, Gregory, Hughes, Jones, Lyman, Stanley, Sully, and Pennington Counties.

BARRED OWL—1-29 (1) attempting to capture pigeons in a residential area of Sioux Falls, observer noted dark eyes and round earless head (fide KE).

Short-eared Owl—More reports than usual, an encouraging trend; reports from Codington, Brown, Haakon, Bennett, Fall River, and Pennington Counties; 1-23 Lacreek N.W.R. (4) RAW.

Belted Kingfisher—(1) present at Gavin's Pt. during December, 1-4 (1) near Missouri R., se Yankton Co., WH.

Common Flicker—Reports from Clay, Yankton, Turner, Roberts, Gregory, and Butte Counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker—(1 pr.) at feeder all period, Clay Co., KJH; 12-26, 1-3 (1) Gavin's Pt., WH.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER—12-26 to 12-28 in wooded area near river, Yankton (1); WH.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER—(1) present at two feeders in Sioux Falls during January (fide KE).

Hairy Woodpecker—Observers with feeders reported one or two pair present all period. Nelda Holden recaptured a female on 2-20 that she had banded on April 14, 1965. The bird was at least 13 years old.

Downy Woodpecker—Observers with feeders had one to three pairs present all period.

BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER—2-21 south central Penn. Co. (1 pr.) RMM.

Horned Lark—1-29 (100's) seen on trip from Rapid City to Aberdeen, 2-27 many singles and small flocks, EMS; 2-27 (300) in ten mile drive, Turner Co., CB; reported from Gregory, Perkins, and Hyde Co.

JAYS THROUGH BROWN CREEPER

Gray Jay—2-12 (2), 2-28 (1) near Rapid City, AMB; 2-20 (2) Nemo Road, NJE.

Blue Jay—Reports from Butte, Penn., Gregory, Chas. Mix, Yankton, Clay, Turner, and Brookings Counties. Eight counties is less than usual.

Black-billed Magpie—2-16 Waubay N.W.R. (1) RRJ; also reported from Yankton, Chas. Mix, Gregory, Pennington, and Perkins Counties.

Common Crow—Two flocks of several hundred each all period in w. Meade Co., EEM; numbers of 42 and less reported from Yankton, Chas. Mix, Codington, Clark, and Gregory Counties.

Pinyon Jay—Numbers down in area this winter, BHAS.

Black-capped Chickadee—From 5 to 20 present daily at feeders across the state.

TUFTED TITMOUSE—1-23 (1) present in yard of my home near Yankton, Juli Wilcox (fide WH). (See "General Notes" in this issue.—ed.)

White-breasted Nuthatch—One or two pair present at most feeders. 12-26 Gavin's Pt. (5) WH; 2-6 Belle Fourche (1), first ever seen in our yard, IW.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—(Av. 3) at most Rapid City feeders, BHAS; none reported from other areas of So. Dak.

Pygmy Nuthatch—(1) Sioux Falls, at Durand Young's feeder during November and part of December (fide KE); six miles south of Rapid City (av. 3) daily for entire period, but sometimes as many as (5), AMB; 2-21 s. cen. Penn. Co. (1) RMM.

Brown Creeper—Reported from Turner, Yankton, Chas. Mix, and Custer Counties, and Black Hills.

Dipper—(1) seen almost daily during period, Rim Rock Highway west of Rapid City, LRP.

THRUSHES, SHRIKE

American Robin—Large concentrations wintering at Rapid City and Sturgis; reported also from Butte, Perkins, Hyde, Gregory, Chas. Mix, and Yankton Counties, and Badlands.

VARIED THRUSH—12-26 to 2-25 (1) present daily in Sturgis, observed by at least seven birders, fed often in a neighbor's window feeder, Mrs. Langin, Mr. Kunert, EEM.

Townsend's Solitaire—(1) daily at most feeders on west edge of Rapid City, BHAS; several present all period, Badlands, RAW; 12-2 Sturgis (1) EEM; 12-28 (2), 2-8 (1) Belle Fourche, IW; 1-23 Roberts Co. (1) BKH.

White-crowned Sparrow

Bohemian Waxwing—2-28 Rapid City (325), total of (2260) for period; groups of (10) to (50) birds reported in Butte, Perkins, Hughes, Gregory, Day, Brookings, Deuel, Roberts, Turner, and Yankton Counties. Good flight year for this species.

Cedar Waxwing—Reports from Brookings, Day, Deuel, Turner, Clay, Yankton, Chas. Mix, Bon Homme, Hyde, Custer, and Butte Counties.

Northern Shrike—Reported from Pennington, Custer, Fall River, Bennett, Gregory, Hyde, Chas. Mix, Clay, Turner, Day, Roberts, and Deuel Counties.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER—12-23 Burke L., Gregory Co. (1) GLS. (See "General Notes"—ed.)

ICTERIDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS

Western Meadowlark—(6) wintered in Perkins Co., AH; also present in Clay, Turner, Chas. Mix, Bennett, and Meade Counties.

Red-winged Blackbird—Reported from Yankton, Bennett, and Meade Counties.

Brewer's Blackbird—1-23 Lacreek N.W.R. (20) RAW.

Common Grackle—12-19 (2), 2-19 (1) Yankton, WH; (3) all period at feeder, Hyde Co., JH; 1-13, 2-10 (1) Hurley, CB.

Cardinal—(2 pr.) at feeder all period, Clay Co., KJH; 12-26 (4) Gavin's Pt., 1-14 (1) Yankton Co., 2-27 (1) se Gregory Co., (2) occasionally at feeder during period, Yankton, WH.

Evening Grosbeak—Definitely not a flight year. Total (160) during period, Penn. Co., BHAS; 12-29 Belle Fourche, flock of (30-40) IW; 1-23, 2-13 (1) Yankton, Juli Wilcox (fide WH).

Purple Finch—12-24 last date, Brookings, CAT; (2-6) at most feeders, Brookings Co., NJH; 1-11 Belle Fourche (1) IW; (10) all period, Burke L., GLS.

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch—Abundant in Badlands, flocks of (50) daily in yard, every farmer with cattle in feedlot or barnyard reported flocks of up to (100) present, RAW; (av. 25) daily south of Rapid City, Dr. Richard Kovarik; 1-21 (500), 2-20 (200), along Hw. 385, Black Hills, Harold Irish.

Common Redpoll—12-13 flock of (40) n. Gregory Co., only sighting during period, GLS; 1-26 (4), 2-22 (30) at feeder, Waubay N.W.R., RRJ.

Pine Siskin—2-15 Burke L. (1), only sighting during period, GLS.

Red Crossbill—Average (20) during January, Rapid City, BHAS.

American Goldfinch—12-16 (15), 2-3 (3) Yankton Co., WH; flock of (20) at feeder during Jan. and Feb., Brookings Co., NJH; 2-15 Burke L. (2) GLS.

Dark-eyed Junco—Most observers with feeders reported from 5 to 20 present all period.

Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged)—Average (30) daily west edge of Rapid City, BHAS.

Tree Sparrow—12-16 (30), 1-21 (16), 2-28 (35) Yankton Co., WH; 12-31 (6) Belle Fourche, IW; estimate (50) all period, Burke L., GLS; numbers down, Badlands, RAW; banded (67) at Pierre during period, RLH; (15) at feeder all period, Brookings Co., NJH.

Harris' Sparrow—Up to (8) at Hurley, CB; (7) at Belle Fourche, IW; present in Gregory, Yankton, Brookings, Deuel, Grant, and Roberts Counties, and in Pierre.

White-throated Sparrow—(1) daily at feeder in Highmore all period, JH; (2) at Jim Cole's feeder in Gary, Deuel Co., from 12-8 to 12-21 (fide BKH).

Song Sparrow—12-16 (7), 1-4 (1) Yankton Co., WH; 1-11 Belle Fourche (6) IW.

Lapland Longspur—None all winter, Badlands, RAW; 1-13 Hyde Co. (20) JH; present all period in mixed flocks with Horned Larks, Gregory Co., GLS.

Snow Bunting—Common throughout period, Day Co., RRJ; 12-8 n. Brown Co. (20) RLH; 12-17 (5), 2-28 (12) Hyde Co., JH; small flocks observed throughout January, Brookings Co., D. Holden.

Contributors

EAST RIVER—

(CB) — Carol Breen, Hurley, Turner Co.

(KE) — Kim Eckert, Garretson, Minnehaha Co.

(WH) — Willis and Rosamond Hall, Yankton, Bon Homme, and Chas. Mix Counties.

(BKH) — Bruce K. Harris, Deuel, Grant, and Roberts Counties.

(JH) — June Harter, Hyde Co.

(RLH) — Richard L. Hill, Hughes and Brown Counties.

Least Bittern Nest and Eggs

(NJH) — Nelda Holden, south Brookings Co.

(KJH) — Karolyn J. Hoover, south Clay Co.

(CAT) — Charles Taylor, Brookings

(RRJ, KFH, MHP) — Robert R. Johnson, Kent F. Hall, Mike H. Philips, Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day Co.

WEST RIVER—

(BHAS) — Black Hills Audubon Society

Members: Adelaide Brodsky (AMB); Violet Brodsky (VLB); C.L. DeFord (DeF); Darnell Dunn (DAD); Norma Eckmann (NJE); Bonnie Green (BLG); Tom Hays (TMH); Doris Knecht (DHK); Verna Hellman (VMH); Richard Michaels (RMM); Jocie Mortimer (JLM); Jo Murner (JoM); Leighton and Ruth Palmer (LRP); Helen Schweigert (HLS); Esther Serr (EMS); Elizabeth Southmayd (EAS); Leona Thein (LT); Virgil Van Heuvelen (VBV); N.R. Whitney (NRW); Leota Williams (LAW); Clara Yarger (CY); Lenord Yarger (LY).

(AH) — Alfred and Gertrice Hinds, west Perkins Co.

(EEM) — Ernest E. Miller, Sturgis, Meade Co.

(BMN) — Barney Nordstrom, east Custer Co.

(GLS) — Galen L. Steffen, Burke, Gregory Co.

(WCT) — Walter C. Thietje, Reliance, Lyman Co.

(IW) — Irma Weyler, Belle Fourche, Butte Co.

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

General Notes of Special Interest

LEAST BITTERN: BREEDING RECORD IN LINCOLN COUNTY—It would not be inaccurate to say that, in general and on a world-wide basis, bird distribution and bird natural history are quite well-known. Not very many places are left on this planet whose topography and geography are such that they are rendered inaccessible to the ornithologist. But there does exist in South Dakota (and in other places, too) a kind of "frontier" whose descriptive ornithology is not well-known. We have in mind the ponds and marshes in the state. Their inaccessibility is not a function of topography and geography but rather results from the fact that "working" a marsh or pond can be both physically demanding and esthetically unpleasant. Most of us, most of the time, peer into marshes with a kind of sedge-blurred vision that produces a "sighting" only if we happen to be in the right place at the right time. And so we do not know as much as we should about the breeding and migratory status of a number of secretive marsh-dwelling species. Included in this group are such species as the Horned, Eared and Western Grebes, the American and Least Bitterns, the King, Virginia, Sora and Yellow Rails and the Sharp-tailed and Leconte's Sparrows. What we need are reports from marsh-sloggers, people who do not mind stumbling over last year's bur-reed and cattails, whose noses are not easily offended by foul-smelling marsh gases, and do not panic when the bottom ooze malevolently sucks at their heels each time they try to take a step. Within this context the following breeding record for the Least Bittern is presented.

On June 9, 1976, a nest of the Least Bittern was discovered in a marsh on the Atkins Waterfowl Production Area, located one mile west and one mile north of Tea, South Dakota, in Lincoln County. The nest was built out of dead stems of the giant bulrush (**Scirpus validus**), and also was supported by living stems of this species. Water depth below the nest was 28 cm, and the nest itself was situated about 25 cm above the level of the water.

When it was discovered, the nest contained four eggs, mostly white, but with a greenish tint. These eggs hatched on June 25. At the time of hatching, the nestlings were covered with long, soft down feathers, light buff in color. Although the adult birds were never seen, the nature of the eggs and young ruled out the possibility that the nest was that of some other species (e.g., Sora, Virginia Rail, American Bittern).

The nestlings survived until they were about five days old, at which time they were presumably the victims of a predator. During this time three of the nestlings were weighed three times each, and the fourth (late-hatching) nestling was weighed twice. Average weight gain was 4.2 grams-day-nestling.

Although the Least Bittern is almost certainly a regular breeder in the eastern half of South Dakota and at Lacreek Refuge, BIRD NOTES includes only sixteen sightings and two breeding records of this species.—**John Oolman and Gil Blankespoor, Augustana College, Sioux Falls**

+ + +

BARRED OWL STUDY SKIN AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA—A fresh road-killed Barred Owl (Strix varia) was brought to me early in March

1976, by Al Martyn—a graduate student at the University of South Dakota. The owl was found along Interstate 29, just 100 yards from the state line, near North Sioux City, South Dakota. Martyn indicated that, while hiking along the river, he had heard owls hooting on both sides of the river (Iowa and South Dakota sides).

I prepared the bird as a study skin, and it is now in the collection in USD's Biology Department.—**Curtis Orde, 1981 Strawberry Lane, Green Bay, Wis. 54303**

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PILEATED WOODPECKER: WINTERED ONE-HALF MILE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA—As there are no confirmed records for the Pileated Woodpecker in South Dakota in recent times, I was greatly interested in a report from Don Grabow, about December 15, 1975, that a large black woodpecker had been coming to a suet feeder at his farm home for several weeks. He believed, after looking at pictures of the species in bird guides, that the bird was a Pileated Woodpecker.

The Grabow farm is located on Cobb Creek, three miles south and one mile east of Gary, Deuel County, South Dakota. The farm headquarters is one-half mile east of the South Dakota state line. Cobb Creek is bordered in this area by some exceptional woodland that includes basswood, oak, hackberry, and ironwood. It is as excellent a habitat for the Pileated Woodpecker as one would find in South Dakota outside of the heavy woodlands along the Missouri River in the southeast corner of the state.

I visited the farm the day after hearing from Mr. Grabow, but I did not see the bird at that time. Mr. Grabow advised that the woodpecker came morning and afternoon or evening, and that his sons had observed it going into a roost hole about 150 yards from the house on several occasions. The pictures they had taken of the bird were not yet developed. After seeing some diggings on a tree near the feeding station, and getting descriptions from Don, I was convinced that his identification was accurate. And my interest increased when Don stated that the bird had first been sighted within one-fourth mile of the South Dakota boundary during mid-November, when Don was cutting wood on his land along the creek.

On December 18, 1975, Gordon Harris and I returned to the Grabow farm, and had the pleasure of seeing a female Pileated Woodpecker come to the feeding station. We watched the bird for about a half-hour at this time. Several later visits were made to the area, and considerable hiking was done in the woodlands to the South Dakota line, but I had no further observations of this interesting woodpecker, though it came regularly to the Grabow feed station until April 18. I hung suet from a tree almost in South Dakota, hoping to lure the bird into the state, but my efforts went unrewarded!

So for the present time, we will have to consider the Pileated Woodpecker on the hypothetical list for South Dakota, but I feel certain that the bird occasionally strays into our state, and it is just a matter of time before we have confirmation of this.

There are some recent sight record reports for the Pileated Woodpecker in South Dakota: one bird was seen near Pierre on September 7, 1968 (BN, 20:95), and another near Brookings on June 1, 1971, was reported by the three observers (BN, 23:93). Other records are much older: reported by Audubon in 1843, at the junction of the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers; specimen in 1888 from "the Big Sioux," reported by C.H. Wells; reported in southeastern South Dakota by Augsburg during the period 1870-1885.

Pileated Woodpeckers have been reported in Minnesota counties bordering South Dakota a number of times in the

past ten years, and it is likely that the species nests in these counties. Paul Springer saw a Pileated at Camdem State Park during summer months, and the bird was observed at Lac Qui Parle State Refuge during the winters of 1972-73 and 1973-74. Distribution in Minnesota is given as "permanent resident throughout the forested part of the state and the heavily timbered valleys and lakeshores of the prairie. In the area south of the Minnesota River valley and west of Blue Earth County the species is very rare, probably because sufficient habitat does not exist there" (**Minnesota Birds. Where. When. and How Many**, Janet Green and Robert Janssen, 1975).

I have been looking for the Pileated Woodpecker along Big Stone Lake for a number of years; it should also occur along the heavily wooded coulees of Gary Gulch, Newton Hills, and Sica Hollow.—**Bruce K. Harris, Clear Lake**

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PIED-BILLED GREBES: UNUSUAL NUMBERS AT BURKE LAKE— Beginning on August 22, 1976, when 13 birds were seen, unusual numbers of Pied-billed Grebes used Burke Lake, Gregory County, for resting and feeding during the fall migration.

The peak number occurred on September 27, when an estimated 200 grebes rested on the lake during the day. Later that day, as darkness was falling, I observed the grebes leaving the lake, to continue their migration. Their pattering take-off could still be heard after darkness had fallen.

Throughout October, 15 to 35 Pied-billed Grebes were present each time I visited the lake. There were eight birds on November 3, the last date.

I estimated that at least 500 Pied-billed Grebes stopped at Burke Lake during the 1976 fall migration, an unusual number for such a small area (the lake is about 25 acres in size). In that period, I did not see any other species of grebe.—**Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523**

White-throated Sparrow

TUFTED TITMOUSE AT YANKTON— On January 23, 1977, in my back yard on a bluff above the Missouri River, I saw a bird that I had seen only once in Yankton (the previous winter), but that was familiar to me. I was standing outside on this clear, sunny day when I saw the bird perched in a sapling about 25 feet away. With my binocular I observed the bird for ten seconds before it flew off. I noted that it was slightly larger than a chickadee. It was nearly all gray, both head and body. Conspicuous were the gray crest and the peach color on the side of the breast close to the wing. This peach color was much brighter than the color in my field guide. I recognized the bird as a Tufted Titmouse, a bird that I had often seen as a girl in Ohio when we went to a nearby river to fish. At that time I knew it by sight but not by name. Later, through scouting activities in Ohio and as a high school student in Alabama, my experience with this species grew.

A momentary second, and last, observation of the titmouse in my yard occurred two days after the first sighting.—**Juli Wilcox, 519 W. Riverside Drive, Yankton 57078**

CASPIAN TERNS: UNUSUAL CONCENTRATIONS IN DEUEL COUNTY—Caspian Terns are probably regular migrants up the Missouri River, and at larger lakes in eastern South Dakota, but we have few records for this species in the state.

On September 9, 1976, I found two Caspian Terns near Kite Island, Big Stone Lake, about five miles north of Big Stone City, and on September 15, I was very surprised to find at least 23 Caspians on Clear Lake, Deuel County, an unusual number for South Dakota at this date. They were located about two hours before sundown, on a sandy point jutting into the southwest corner of the lake. This point was a favorite resting place for many species of birds during this year of low water--gulls, terns, cormorants, and pelicans. The Caspian Terns were clustered together among many other birds, and I had difficulty in getting a count, but finally decided there were at least 23 birds present at this time. Some of them were swinging around the rather small lake on foraging expeditions, uttering their raucous calls that attract attention to this species so quickly. I drove home, called Nelda Holden at Brookings, hoping she could come to verify this unusual sighting, but she was unable to make the trip. I returned to the lake with my wife about one-half hour before sundown, and was amazed to find the terns gone. I had not expected them to move at sundown. I had a third sighting for this species on September 27, when three Caspian Terns were observed at Lake Oliver, within one mile of the Minnesota line.

Prior to 1976, I had observed Caspian Terns in South Dakota on only three occasions: a single bird on Big Stone Lake, near Sodak park, on June 5, 1966; seven birds at Big Bend Dam on the Missouri River, Lyman County, on May 21, 1969; a single bird on the Missouri River in Clay County on May 26, 1974. However, Dennis Strom, former Assistant Refuge Manager at the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Ortonville, Minnesota, has given me records for the south end of Big Stone Lake that suggest that Caspian Terns may be fairly common migrants along our eastern border. Strom had only two records for 1973—two birds on May 6, and one on October 10. But in 1974, he observed this species from May 6 through the 25th, including 10 birds together on one date. A Caspian Tern was also recorded by Strom on June 12, 1974, at a small slough in Minnesota about 10 miles east of Big Stone Lake, indicating a late migration for these birds.

It is reasonable to believe that Caspian Terns might nest in South Dakota, although the first nest record for Minnesota came only in 1969, and the species is a fairly common migrant in eastern Minnesota. However, Caspian Terns are sporadic nesters in a number of varied habitats in the United States, from the Gulf Coast to Idaho and Lake of the Woods in the interior. They are well established as a nesting species on Lake Winnipeg, directly north of Pierre, and these birds may account for a regular flight up the Missouri River in South Dakota.

Caspian Terns are so large and conspicuous in flight habits and call that they should not be easily overlooked—they are actually slightly larger than the Ring-billed Gull, with a very noticeable bright red bill. We should be able to get more records for this interesting tern in South Dakota by closely watching along the Missouri River and large eastern lakes during May, and again in September.—**Bruce K. Harris, Clear Lake**

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LEAST BITTERN AT BURKE LAKE—On September 28, 1976, I observed a Least Bittern in a small stand of cattails at Burke Lake, Gregory County.

At a distance of about 100 yards, I was searching for Soras with my scope, on its car window mount, when a Least Bittern moved just at the moment I was focusing on the cattails. I studied the bird for

about 20 minutes before it moved out of sight. Its small size and the light streaking on the breast and neck were noted. The wing patches of buff and chestnut were also observed, although they were not as prominent as those shown in the field guides. The bittern assumed the freeze posture several times.

The Least Bittern is seldom reported seen in South Dakota, due probably to its shyness and secretive movements. It may be more common than believed, in the proper habitat.—**Galen L. Steffen, Burke**

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YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: WINTER RECORD IN GREGORY COUNTY--On December 23, 1976, I observed a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Burke Lake, Gregory County. The bird was in a weedy, brushy area along the creek that flows away from the spillway of the lake. I watched it for several minutes with the binoculars, in good light with the sun at my back, at a distance of 10-20 feet. The yellow rump and the dull yellow side patches were clearly visible as the warbler moved about. The bird drank from the creek, then flew to a large brushy area some distance away. Subsequent searches for the warbler during the next few weeks were unsuccessful.

In available literature, I found two South Dakota winter records for the Yellow-rumped Warbler. In BIRD NOTES (25:14), the late J.C. Findley reported two Myrtle Warblers observed by the Max Pierce family in their yard in Sioux Falls on December 2, 1962. The 1974-75 winter season report sent to me from Rapid City, for use in AMERICAN BIRDS, included Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's race). Several of the species had wintered at feeders in Rapid City from December 29, 1974 to March 1, 1975 (BN, 27:7).

November 9, 1975 was the previous late date for the Yellow-rumped Warbler in the Burke Lake area.---**Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523**

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS IN GREGORY COUNTY—During the fall of 1976, I again had sightings of Red-bellied Woodpeckers near Burke, Gregory County. There were at least three, and possibly four or five, as explained below.

On September 3, I observed a male of this species at Burke Lake, the first sighting at the lake in nearly two years. In the same area, a single male, possibly the same bird, was seen on September 6 and October 2. The last 1976 observation of the species at Burke Lake occurred October 11, when I noted a female.

On November 22, however, I saw another male Red-bellied Woodpecker in a brushy shelterbelt at an old farmstead five miles north of Burke.---**Galen L. Steffen, Burke**

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SORAS: UNUSUAL NUMBERS AT BURKE LAKE—On September 29, 1976, I was using my spotting scope to search along the edge of the rushes on the north and west sides of the lake. I was hoping to find an American Bittern for my life list.

Instead of the bittern, I saw Soras emerging from the rushes to feed along the shoreline. For the distance of about 150 yards I adjusted the scope to 30 power, and easily identified the birds as Soras. In approximately 30 minutes I counted 10 rails along the 100 yard strip of rushes.

On October 4, I again searched the same area with the scope and counted at least 20 Soras. There were probably others present. After this date, the rails were seen on each visit to the lake until October 15, the last date, when three rails were seen.

As the editor for the South Dakota season reports for AMERICAN BIRDS, I have noted that there are a few, if any, records for Soras, and those few are usually for only one or two birds. For that reason, the concentrations at Burke Lake seem noteworthy.---**Galen L. Steffen, Burke**

Black-headed Grosbeak at Pierre

Enid Hyde

Warning: This is not a scientific treatise.

One day in the second week of August 1975, my little granddaughter rushed breathlessly into the house clutching to her breast a small ragamuffin bird. She had found him cheeping forlornly in a garage down the street, apparently orphaned, and with an injured foot.

I was busy preparing for an evening party, but I realized along with the rest of the family that we had to save this bird's life. After all, Mrs. Eklund a few houses away had raised a robin just out of its shell, and I would have been a flop in my little one's eyes if I couldn't do as well. So, first things coming first, the wheels of preparation for the party came to a screeching halt, and we all rallied to the cause. Children, wondering and excitedly advising, materialized dramatically—one bearing a cage in which the birdling was quickly ensconced and where careful hands brought him tidbits of food.

Well, we raised "Tweety-bird"—variously known as "Ragamuffin," "Majestic," and to the unimaginative, as the baby Black-headed Grosbeak in Mrs. Hyde's backyard. The dawn-to-dusk routine of feeding became our way of life. His menu included high-protein bread soaked in water, cottage cheese, chopped apple, cooked rice and hard-boiled egg yolk. One day he seemed picky and uninterested in this mundane fare and it came to me that he might need something green, so I offered scraps of lettuce. He wolfed lettuce for several days. The bird was so scantily feathered at that time that we could actually see the green lettuce through the transparent skin of his bulging crop. Grubs and bugs were added to his, by this time, gourmet meals. He waxed strong. His foot mended. He feathered out beautifully.

The bird became very tame, of course, and allowed us to handle him and to pick him up in the back porch where he learned to fly. We were all enchanted with his personality which was a blend of aplomb, friendliness, and a for-Pete's-sake-where-is-my-supper attitude, and we watched for signs that he was learning to hunt and peck for his food so that we could someday free him. The bird seemed a bit slow about this, but we had confidence and we continued to bear with his adolescence. B.J. Rose came and banded the bird, which seemed to formalize our adoption.

Summer came to an end and the visiting members of my family departed, leaving me as Tweety's only foster parent. I answered many a long-distance call to be greeted with a barely perfunctory "Hi, Mother," and then eager questions about Tweety. Why did we care that much? We don't know why, but we do know that having that small defenseless creature in our keeping was enriching and expanding, and we did care.

Then one warm afternoon I decided it was time to let him go. I sat on the grass with him and we discovered that angleworms go down better if eaten head first. And I taught him about water. I dipped my finger in a small bowl of water and then held my finger to his beak. He sipped a drop or so a couple of times, hopped to the bowl, drank his fill, and then experimented with bathing. He liked it and became as fastidious as any well-reared bird. I picked him up, gave him a little toss, and off he flew with never a backward glance. I was the one who had

qualms about freedom. I was the nervous one, and every little bit that afternoon I went outside to check on him. He seemed fine—just as nonchalant as could be as he pecked about on the roof and explored tree tops, but I had to be sure he was getting enough to eat so I whistled him down for a hearty snack of scrambled egg. That evening, when the tree branches began to toss in the wind, I was afraid for his safety and tucked him back in the cage. However, he later rode out some bad storms in whatever safe places birds find.

The bird and I were "en rapport." He came to the door to greet me; he swooped down from his leafy haunts when I whistled, oftentimes landing on my head (frankly, I would have preferred a shoulder landing lest he forget his manners); he ate his scrambled egg and allowed me to carry him around while I searched for boxelder bugs for him; he graciously endured my whispered sweet nothings; he listened earnestly when I urged him to keep a watch for birds of his feather for the southward flight. I told him the yard would be very still and lonely without him, and for him to be sure to come back next summer. I would be looking for him, I promised.

Then a few days later, I found his feathers scattered about the patio. Alas, I had not taught him about cats.—**Pierre**

Check-list Review

CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS OF NORTHWESTERN NEBRASKA AND SOUTHWESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA, by Richard C. Rosche. 1977. Richard C. Rosche, P.O. Box 482, Crawford, Nebraska 69339. Stapled, paper covers, 8½ x 11 inches. $2.00.

This Check-list is primarily a summary of field records by the author and his wife, Dorothy J. Rosche, but it has also been produced to update the knowledge of the area and to serve as a "basis for a literature search in preparation for a more detailed future publication on the birds of the general region." The South Dakota observations were made in Fall River County.

Species arrangement and common names are those used by American Birding Association. The columns in the charts give the names, state(s) where the birds were observed, regularity of occurrence, status, spring dates, fall dates, and a check mark if there is evidence that the species nests in the area. Numbers in parentheses by certain species names guide the reader to additional details and comments in the "Notes" section at the end of the Check-list.

The publication of this data gives South Dakota birders a reliable guide to what they might find in the southwestern corner of the state.—**Ed.**

New Membership Category for SDOU

Members of South Dakota Ornithologists' Union now have another membership option. On May 21, 1977, the Board of Directors adopted the Life Member category for members wishing to take advantage of this convenience. It is now available, at $125.00, and inquiries may be directed to the treasurer: L.M. Baylor, 1941 Red Dale Drive, Rapid City 57701.

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1977 Fall Meeting

The new Churchill Haynes Laboratory at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, will be the headquarters for the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union Fall Meeting on November 11, 12 and 13. Further details will be in the September issue of BIRD NOTES.