

South Dakota Bird Notes

Vol. 32

March 1980

No. 1



Photo: Wes Gienger

South Dakota Bird Notes, the official publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (organized 1949), is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Life members \$125; sustaining members \$12.00; regular members \$6.00; family members (husband and wife) with one subscription to *Bird Notes* \$9.00; juniors (10-16) \$3.00; libraries (subscription) \$6.00. Single and back copies: Members \$1.50, Non-members \$2.00. All dues payments, change-of-address notices, and orders for back numbers should be sent to the Treasurer, Nelda Holden, Rt. 4, Box 252, Brookings SD 57006. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to Editor Dan Tallman, NSC Box 740, Aberdeen SD 57401.

Vol. 32

March 1980

No. 1

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

| | |
|---|----|
| President's Page, Robert Buckman | 3 |
| Recent Woodcock Records in Northeastern South Dakota, Bruce Harris | 5 |
| 1979 Burke Banding Report, Galen L. Steffen | 6 |
| A Day for Sparrows, Vernon Kirk | 7 |
| General Notes — Observations of Glaucous Gulls in Northeastern South Dakota, Concentration of Red Crossbills at Burke Lake, Unusual Winter Concentration of Mourning Doves at Aberdeen, Common Gallinule on Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, Lesser Sandhill Crane in Charles Mix County, Prairie Chickens at Yankton, Two Winter Records of the Red-shafted Flicker at Aberdeen, Recent Records of Townsend's Solitaires in Roberts County | 9 |
| The 1979 Fall Season, Bruce Harris | 13 |
| Answers to Last Issue's Puzzle | 19 |

SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

OFFICERS 1979-1980

| | |
|----------------|---|
| President | Robert Buckman, Dakota State College, Madison 57042 |
| Vice President | Everett C. Montgomery, 426 S. Jackson, Aberdeen 57401 |
| Secretary | L. M. Baylor, 1941 Red Dale, Rapid City 57701 |
| Treasurer | Nelda Holden, Rt. 4, Box 252, Brookings 57006 |
| Editor | Dan Tallman, NSC Box 740, Aberdeen 57401 |
| Librarian | Herman P. Chilson, Webster 57274 |

DIRECTORS

For Term Expiring 1980: Herman P. Chilson, Webster; Bruce Harris, Clear Lake; N.R. Whitney, Jr., Rapid City; L.M. Baylor, Rapid City; E. C. Montgomery, Aberdeen.

For Term Expiring 1981: Byron Harrell, Vermillion; J.W. Johnson, Huron; Kenneth Husmann, Brookings; June Harter, Highmore; Jocelyn Baker, Rapid City.

For Term Expiring 1982: Gil Blankespoor, Sioux Falls; Nelda Holden, Brookings; Esther Edie, Bruce; Galen Steffen, Burke; Robert Buckman, Madison.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

One of the amazing characteristics of birds is the great variety of nests they build, ranging from simple scrapings in the sand to the extremely complex creations of some tropical species. The following is a summary of the types of nest structures that birds build.

A few species actually have no prepared nest. Certain shorebirds lay their eggs on the bare ground with no effort put into building a nest. The Whip-poor-will lays its eggs on the forest floor without rearranging the leaf litter. The Common Nighthawk also builds no nest. On some Pacific Islands, the Fairy Tern lays a single egg on a horizontal tree branch with nothing holding the egg in place.

The simplest type of nest is made of grass and sticks. Many ground nesting birds arrange bits of grasses and other vegetation around their eggs. The meadowlarks build a rather complex grassy nest with an arch over the top. Among birds that nest in trees, the Mourning Dove gets along with the minimum, just a few intertwining twigs. Usually the egg is visible through the bottom of the nest. Many predatory birds build more complex stick nests that can be quite bulky and may include leaves and bark.

Another common nest material is mud. Often it is combined with grass. This type of nest belongs to the American Robin and is a fairly substantial structure, solid enough to survive heavy rains. The Barn Swallow and the Eastern Phoebe place their mud nests in protected areas such as in buildings or under bridges.

Some birds, such as Yellow Warblers and American Goldfinches, incorporate large amounts of plant down into their nests. This down is usually collected from composites or willows. Usually the resulting nests are quite well made. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird builds a nest of bud scales and spider webs. This tiny nest is then lined with plant down and camouflaged with gray-green lichens. Numerous birds use feathers to line their nests. Ducks and geese are the classic examples. They pluck the down from their own bodies for nest lining. Other birds, such as the House Sparrow, collect feathers, particularly of poultry, with which to line their nests.

Vireos and orioles build nests that hang from a fork or twig. The vireos' pendulous nests are usually suspended near the end of a branch. The Northern Oriole constructs a deeply cupped nest that swings in the breeze. These pendulous nests contain strands of grasses, bark, horse (or other available) hair, and yarn.

Many bird species use tree holes for nests. Compared to exposed nests, these sites are relatively safe from predators and bad weather. Birds like woodpeckers can dig their own holes in dead trees or stumps but bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and chickadees are hole-nesters that must use holes excavated and abandoned by other species. Some birds nest in burrows they dig in mud banks. Good examples of burrow-nesters are the Belted Kingfisher and Bank and Rough-winged Swallows. Burrowing Owls adopt prairie dog holes (or other mammal burrows) for their nests.

Marshbirds and waterbirds use a variety of aquatic nest sites. Mallards sometimes place their nests on muskrat houses or beaver lodges. In shallow water, coots, grebes, and Black Terns often construct floating platforms of aquatic plant material. Usually these nests are loosely anchored so that changes in water level will not flood the nest. And, finally, birds like the Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Long-billed Marsh Wrens construct their nests in emergent vegetation.—Robert Buckman, Madison 57042.

RECENT WOODCOCK RECORDS IN NORTHEASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

by Bruce Harris

Clear Lake 57226

Although very few nest records exist, the woodcock is believed to be a regularly breeding bird in some South Dakota counties bordering Minnesota and along the Missouri River in the southeast. This hypothesis is supported by sightings of the species during the breeding season and by the presence of singing males in ideal nesting habitat.

The following records document the occurrence of woodcock in the northeastern counties of South Dakota. Included are some late fall records, observations during the breeding season or summer months, and an unreported nest record from 1963 that is apparently the first for South Dakota since 1884.

The nest record, reported to me by Dennis Evenson, State's Attorney for Deuel Co., is from Siche Hollow, Roberts Co. Mr. Evenson recalls that, sometime prior to 10 May 1963, he found the nest by almost stepping on the bird. He reached down to touch the incubating woodcock (a female?) but it flushed from the nest, which contained eggs. Mr. Evenson emphasized that the nest was among leaves in a woodland, eliminating the possibility that the nest belonged to a snipe.

An account of other woodcock records from NE South Dakota is as follows:

Brookings Co. —18 March 1977, dead bird (dead on road) was brought to Alan Wentz, Wildlife Department, SDSU. 15 September 1978, Spencer Vaa (GF&P) flushed a bird on the Lake Co.—Brookings Co. line near Lake Campbell. 26 October 1976, I flushed a bird at Oakwood State Park.

Deuel Co. —29 March 1976, I saw a singing male at Lake Alice but it was in marginal habitat and was not observed again. 21 April 1977, I recorded two, possibly three, singing males at Gary Gulch. 19 April 1978, I found two singing males in good habitat near Lake Cochrane. 12 April 1979, Margery Dennis had a good view of a woodcock on a lawn in Clear Lake. 27 May 1979, I flushed a woodcock from a dry woodland in Gary Gulch (ash/oak/Prickly Ash). 22 July 1976, I flushed a single bird in Gary Park within city limits. 2 June 1979, I observed at least three males courting at Gary Gulch; this date is very late for "peenting" woodcock. 10 September 1978, I flushed a woodcock in dry woodland on Cole PSA, 3 mi N Gary. 19 October 1979, I found a bird on the shore of Lone Tree Lake.

Roberts Co. —15 April 1979, using a dog, I flushed three, and possibly seven, woodcock. The birds were in nesting habitat at Hartford Beach State Park, all within a 45 m area. I first located displaying woodcock at Hartford Beach in May 1975. I assume they are of regular occurrence there, but I have not checked annually, as I have at Gary Gulch, which is closer to my home. Similarly, woodcock may be regular at Siche Hollow where I located singing birds in May 1975. I have no doubt that woodcock are nesting at each of these three localities, but efforts to locate nests have proved to be too time-consuming to be successful.

Marshall Co. —14 November 1975, Jack Opitz (GF&P) flushed a woodcock at an artesian well area, Renziehazen PSA.

Day Co. —11 April 1977, Art Talsma (GF&P) reported a bird at Pickerel Lake. Willie Foss (GF&P) saw two woodcock at Pickerel Lake Fish Hatchery, where adequate nesting habitat is available.

1979 BURKE BANDING REPORT

by Galen L. Steffen

Burke 57523

The following is a list of the 23 bird species (581 individuals) that I banded in the Burke area, Gregory Co., in 1979. I continued my color-banding project with Purple Martins. Dark green plastic bands on the right legs and numbered metal bands on the left legs now adorn 147 martin nestlings. About 50 fewer nestlings were banded this year than in each of the previous three years due to a decrease in the number of breeding adults.

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| Mourning Dove | 56 | Red-winged Blackbird | 12 |
| Barn Swallow | 4 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 9 |
| Purple Martin | 152 | Common Grackle | 23 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 1 | Baltimore Oriole | 1 |
| Blue Jay | 14 | Pine Siskin | 2 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 27 | Black-headed Grosbeak | 1 |
| Brown Thrasher | 5 | Slate-colored Junco | 113 |
| American Robin | 32 | Tree Sparrow | 98 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 1 | Chipping Sparrow | 2 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 7 | Clay-colored Sparrow | 1 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 2 | Harris' Sparrow | 10 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 8 | | |

A DAY FOR SPARROWS

by Vernon M. Kirk

Brookings 57006

May is a most interesting time to be afield in South Dakota. After the long winter, temperatures are more bearable and most plants are starting to grow. But most noticeable is the flush of bird activity as the migrating songbirds pause briefly en route to their summer ranges farther north. Also, local birds are beginning to pick their territories, select mates, and start construction of their nests.

One day, about mid-May, I drove off a gravel road and parked my car near a half-acre woodlot of Box Elder. Alfalfa fields on both sides were showing green and the trees were just coming into leaf and bloom.

After about five minutes, two Mourning Doves called. Then I heard the thin, high-pitched notes of a Harris' Sparrow, and another, and another! Apparently the grove held a migrating flock of about 50 of these big brown sparrows. Within a couple of minutes, the air was full of the sound of their calls, most about the same pitch as the call of a chickadee. But some varied from slightly flat or sharp to five to six notes lower. Each bird sang one to four notes, all of the same pitch, but different pitches came from different individuals. Because the human ear does not hear many very high sounds, after a few minutes some people might find the birds' continuous calling unpleasant. I didn't. Some of these sparrows perched on the same twig for many minutes but most kept flitting from place to place among the trees. Several of the birds flew to the field. Six formed a little group close by and picked up bits of grit or seeds from the ground.

At least seven kinds of sparrows were present. Two White-throated Sparrows kept repeating their "peabody! peabody!" calls. Then I heard the "tick! tick! tick!" of a Grasshopper Sparrow but several minutes passed before I could find the bird. Although I could not see them, I heard two Song Sparrows. One sang from each end of the grove. Then I saw a Savannah Sparrow perched quietly nearby.

Once I accidentally blew the car horn. The sound caused about 20 small sparrows, which had slipped in unobserved, to fly to the grove from the ground near the car. However, I watched carefully afterwards and saw many of the little brown creatures drift back to the road. I counted three species, including one Clay-colored Sparrow. Something spooked them and they all darted to the grove. Within a minute, four were already back to foraging on the road.

When only a couple of the birds were on the ground, they were quite alert and spent half the time watching as though for something threatening. But when about a dozen were there, they paid almost no attention to anything except what was on the ground in front of them. They must believe in safety in numbers.

A meadowlark sang, but only from the top of a couple of metal fence posts that it kept using as alternate perches. It preferred the open area and would not come near the trees. A Mourning Dove called again a few times and a crow uttered its harsh cry as it flew overhead. A Yellow Warbler added its bit of melody. A flicker cried out, rapped a couple of beats, and then flew off to a line of willows across the field.

As if trying to upset the whole scenario, a small gang of House Sparrows came blustering into the grove with their unmusical chirps. Everything else became silent for a couple of minutes. But the interlopers flew off toward a nearby farmstead and the scene returned to normal.

A Red-headed Woodpecker flew in, hitched its way up a tree trunk long enough to add some color to the setting, then flew off. A few minutes later, a Hairy Woodpecker did the same. Several grackles stopped by for a couple of minutes and about every ten minutes a sleek Barn Swallow skimmed over the field, looking for insects (vainly, I believe, because the day was a little cool for insects to be flying).

For some unknown reason, a hush fell over the area. Everything was quiet except for the meadowlark on the fence post. The stillness did not last long. Soon a Blue Jay screamed; then all but the Harris' Sparrow seemed to join.

I left the area but returned about the same time the next day. Except for two crows that stealthily carried food to their nest in the grove and for about a dozen House Sparrows, the grove was deserted.

GENERAL NOTES

OBSERVATIONS OF GLAUCOUS GULLS IN NORTHEASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA, 1976-1979.—Glaucous Gulls have been reported regularly in South Dakota since 1967, when August Hoeger identified two birds on the Missouri River near Gavin's Point (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*). During the winter, this gull is reported often along the Missouri, usually at Oahe Dam.

The first occurrence of Glaucous Gulls away from the Missouri came on 6 April 1976, when I found two (and possibly three) of these gulls in Deuel Co. These records were reported in "Seasonal Reports" for *South Dakota Bird Notes*. But a more detailed account is in order. The birds I observed were among a large concentration of over 200 Herring and Ring-billed Gulls feeding on winter-killed fish at Round Lake, in NW Deuel Co. The two second-year Glaucous Gulls were very white and easily distinguishable among the smaller Herrings and Ring-bills. I thought I saw a first-year Glaucous but I could not pin it down among the swirling masses of gulls. Using binoculars, I observed the second-year birds carefully from 200 yards.

On 13 April 1978 at a tremendous winter fish kill at Lake Poinsett, Hamlin Co., I saw a very white second-year Glaucous Gull. The bird was flying about 75 yards from me. I made special note of the dark outer half of the bill as well as the overall coloration. Again, hundreds of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were working the area, so quite possibly other Glaucous Gulls could have been in the vicinity.

On 30 December 1978, J.D. Ross showed me a second-year Glaucous Gull on the south end of Big Stone Lake just outside the Grant Co. line on the Minnesota side of the lake. Ross, a competent birder, had observed this bird since 10 December 1978 and continued seeing it until 5 January 1979. The bird was included in the 1978 Ortonville Christmas Count, the first record for the species in western Minnesota. We flushed the bird off the ice and watched it circle over the South Dakota side of the lake to justify its occurrence in Grant Co.! Open water near local power plants provide habitat for increasing numbers of wintering waterfowl, such as cormorants, grebes, and pelicans. Ross indicates five Glaucous Gulls occurred at Ortonville during the 1979 Christmas Count.—Bruce Harris, Clear Lake 57226.

CONCENTRATION OF RED CROSSBILLS AT BURKE LAKE.—An “invasion” of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) occurred during October 1979 at the Burke Lake State Recreation Area, two miles east of Burke, Gregory Co., South Dakota. The first sighting of the birds was on 4 October, when a flock of 30 appeared. During the next several days, the numbers increased. An estimated 60 were seen on 7 October. This increase continued during the next two weeks. Several flocks of 25 to 30 birds could be found during each of my visits to the area. The maximum count was made on 22 October, when several large flocks congregated in a small stand of Jack Pines. Counting individuals proved impossible but I estimated numbers of at least 225 birds. The flocks may have contained as many as 250 individuals. They remained in the Jack Pines for about 15 minutes, after which they dispersed over the area in small flocks.

Large numbers of Red Crossbills remained at Burke Lake until the end of October. By the end of the first week of November, a marked decrease in Red Crossbills was noted. By 1 December, only a small flock of 15 birds remained in the area. In mid-January 1980, this small flock was still present.

Although I have observed crossbills in the Burke Lake area during past years, the total seen in October 1979 is by far the largest concentration I have ever noted. The previous high count was a flock of 25 present during December 1972. In fact, the high numbers for October 1979 are exceptional for any area of South Dakota outside the Black Hills. The only larger concentration of which I am aware is a flock of 300 in the Aberdeen area in the fall of 1966 (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*).

I am interested to know if the Red Crossbill concentration at Burke Lake was just an isolated occurrence or if there were other buildups of crossbills in other central or eastern South Dakota regions during the fall of 1979. Tallman (pers. comm.) reports only 15 during that period in Aberdeen. The landscape at Burke Lake, with extensive plantings of Ponderosa Pine and Jack Pine that produced a bumper crop of cones in 1979, no doubt played an important part in attracting the large numbers of Red Crossbills to the area.—Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523.

UNUSUAL WINTER CONCENTRATION OF MOURNING DOVES AT ABERDEEN.—On 18 January 1980, while taking a late afternoon stroll along Moccasin Creek 50 m S of Melgaard Road, Aberdeen, Brown Co., SD, I flushed a flock of 47 Mourning Doves. They flew toward a nearby farm and feedlot just E of the creek. Close by, a flock of 15 American Robins fed in some cattails along with a single, male Red-winged Blackbird. Although Mourning Doves are often reported from the southern part of the state (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*), they are less frequently encountered in the NE. The size of the flock I observed makes this record especially noteworthy.—Duane Weber, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

COMMON GALLINULE ON LAKE ANDES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.—During the summer of 1979, a Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) frequented the Owens Bay Unit of the Lake Andes NWR. The bird was first observed and photographed by Gary R. Zahm, refuge manager, on 9 June 1979. The distinctive red bill and face made identification positive. The gallinule fed along the edge of Owens Bay, using downed cottonwoods as perches. Several other sightings were made of the bird during the next two weeks by refuge personnel. Its distinctive call was often heard by personnel working in the area where the bird was sighted.

The Common Gallinule is listed as a casual or rare visitant and summer resident in eastern South Dakota (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*) but this sighting is the first for Lake Andes NWR.—David Hilley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lake Andes NWR 57356.

LESSER SANDHILL CRANE IN CHARLES MIX COUNTY.—On 9 June 1979, a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) was observed on a private marsh nine miles north and four miles west of the city of Lake Andes, Charles Mix Co., South Dakota. Gary R. Zahm, refuge manager of Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, made the observation and photographed the crane. This sighting is considered a very late spring record for this species. Previous records for the spring migration in *The Birds of South Dakota* (Whitney et al.) all occur before 4 June.—David Hilley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lake Andes NWR 57356.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS AT YANKTON.—5 January 1980 was a cloudy day with SE winds at 8 to 15 mph and a temperature of about 30^oF. Carol and Larry Farmer, Juli and James Wilcox, and I observed a flock of 24 Prairie Chickens on this day. We saw them in the Beaver Creek Hills, an area of pastures with a few junipers, about one mile west of the James River and five miles north of Yankton. Several photographs confirmed our identification.

My efforts to find other records of Prairie Chickens in Yankton Co. have produced nothing. The catalogue cards for the five specimens in the Yankton College Museum do not give the date or place where they were collected. Carl M. Johnson, in his article "Birds of Bon Homme County, 1932," includes both the Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Bird Notes* X:52-55). Stephens, Youngworth, and Felton, in the "Birds of Union County, South Dakota," report that two were seen near McCook Lake.—Willis Hall, Yankton 57078.

TWO WINTER RECORDS OF THE RED-SHAFTED FLICKER AT ABERDEEN.—Two sightings of the red-shafted form of the Common Flicker have been reported from Aberdeen, Brown Co., during the winter of 1979-1980. The first, recorded by Tallman on 13 January 1980, was in a Russian Olive-studded field ½ mile S Wylie City Park. Although snow covered some of the ground, the day was sunny and temperatures reached 40°F. The flicker definitely had red, not orange, primary shafts, although most Red-shafted Flickers in the state have proven to be hybrids. The Wylie bird was seen twice that afternoon at the same location, but a more precise record of field marks proved impossible due to the extreme wariness of the bird.

A second sighting was made by Duane Weber on 7 February 1980 four blocks N of the Northern State College campus. The flicker, a male with a prominent red mustache streak and salmon-pink wing shafts, was apparently searching for insects under the wooden eaves of a house. After about two minutes the woodpecker flew off and was never seen again.

Both these records are unusual for the NE part of the state, especially since the red-shafted race is only an occasional winter straggler in its normal breeding range W of the Missouri.—Dan A. Tallman and Duane Weber, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

RECENT RECORDS OF TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRES IN ROBERTS COUNTY.—Although the Townsend's Solitaire is found regularly during the fall and winter in eastern South Dakota, no observations have been reported from Roberts Co. However, during the Wilmot Christmas Count on 24 December 1975, Kim Eckert and Gordon Harris reported this species. Eckert is experienced as a birder and knows this solitaire well. The bird was located in an ideal habitat, a mixed coniferous woodland, at the Boy Scout Camp one mile north of Hiawatha Beach on Big Stone Lake.

My first Roberts Co. record came on 23 January 1977, when I found a bird in a juniper grove about two miles west and one mile south of Wilmot. The solitaire fed on juniper berries with a flock of waxwings (species undetermined). The day was sunny and the bird sang quietly as it foraged among the junipers.

Townsend's Solitaires were reported three other times in the northeast during the winter of 1977-1978. Mr. Don Townsend, then manager of the Sioux Valley Nursery (Game, Fish, and Parks), located NW of Watertown, told me he saw a solitaire at the nursery, where he kept a feeding station. He is quite familiar with birds but is unable to supply a definite date. On 5 November 1978, Mrs. Charles Hanson of Watertown saw this species at her home on Lake Kampeska. On 16 November 1978, Larry Lynch reported this bird at Aberdeen, Brown Co.—Bruce Harris, Clear Lake 57226.

THE 1979 FALL SEASON

by Bruce Harris

Box 605, Clear Lake 57226

- Common Loon--1 August, Farm Island (DB) and 24 August, Yankton Co. (WH). Both records are interesting because they are possible (if very unlikely) nesting birds. At least one was present all summer in Day Co. at Enemy Swim Lake where KH had a late record for 12 November. The most likely explanation for these summering birds is that they are cripples, unable to migrate. Be sure to check for cripples when summering loons are located or when you find late migrants. Flush them if at all possible.
- Horned Grebe--17 November, late record, Yankton Co. (WH). More than usual observed in the NE this fall (BKH).
- Western Grebe--28 November, latest record ever, Yankton Co. (WH).
- Pied-billed Grebe--23 September, a very unusual concentration of 106, Roberts Co. (BKH, GM); the birds were closely clustered in an obvious fishing formation. A similar concentration of 40 was observed in Deuel Co., 27 September (BKH). A count of 45 was made in Gregory Co., 9 September (GLS). Late date of 4 November, Pennington Co., supplied by JLB and LMB.
- White Pelican--10 November, latest date on record, Clay Co. (RAP, WEL).
- Double-crested Cormorant--29 November, latest date on record, Yankton Co. (WH).
- Little Blue Heron--1 & 20 August, 6 at Sand Lake (WAS).
- Great Egret--20 August, 17 at Sand Lake (nesting birds?) (SJW, WAB, RHE). A peak of 23, Waubay Refuge, 17 September (LLW). 40 along James River, but no date (ECM).
- Snowy Egret--20 August, 4 birds at Sand Lake (WAS).
- Cattle Egret--5 September, Brookings Co. (MKH).
- Black-crowned Night Heron--4 November, late date, (immature), Deuel Co. (BKH).
- Least Bittern--26 August, Brown Co. (ECM).
- American Bittern--5 November, late date, Day Co. (KHH).
- White-faced Ibis--1 August and 3 September, Sand Lake, 8 (TKK) (from nesting birds).
- Whistling Swan--28 November, latest date on record, Waubay Refuge (DDO, HOS).

Snow Goose--31 November, latest date on record, Deuel Co. (BKH) (2 healthy birds). Unusual peak est. 30,000, Deuel Co., 2 November and 50, Deuel Co., 19 November (BKH). Peak of 13,000, 14 November, Yankton Co. and 2,000 at Gavin's Point, 17 November (WH). Many more birds than usual in NE and probably also in SE.

Ross' Goose--30 September, earliest record ever, Sand Lake (WAS).

Black Duck--16 October, Waubay Refuge (LLW).

Gadwall--27 November, latest on record, Yankton Co. (WH). 3 in Deuel Co., 21 November (BKH).

Blue-winged Teal--3 November, Ben Homme Co. (RLS) and 2 November, Deuel Co. (BKH). Both these records are late dates.

Green-winged Teal--very poor flight year.

Cinnamon Teal--16 September, Pennington Co. (JLB, EMS, MAJ).

Wood Duck--21 September, concentration of 58, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Ring-necked Duck--23 November, very late migrant, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Canvasback--17 November, very late migrant, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Lesser Scaup--29 November, latest on record, 7 seen Yankton Co. (WH). 29 birds, Deuel Co., 27 November (BKH). Peak of 4670, Day Co., 23 October (LLW).

Common Goldeneye--27 November, 7 very late migrants, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Barrow's Goldeneye--25-30 November, Canyon Lake, Pennington Co. (JLB).

Oldsquaw--17-29 November, Yankton Co. (photo) (WH).

White-winged Scoter--7 November, Yankton Co. (WH) and 3-4 November, 2 birds in 2 areas of Deuel Co. (BKH) (possible duplication but records 10 miles apart).

Surf Scoter--31 October, Sand Lake, Brown Co. (DAT).

Bufflehead--17 November, very late birds, Deuel Co. and 18 November, Gregory Co. (GLS).

Ruddy Duck--peak of 2025, Day Co. (LLW). Peak in late October, 1500-2000 in 3 areas, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Hooded Merganser--23 October, peak of 25, Waubay Refuge (LLW). 2 November, flock of 14, Deuel Co. (BKH). Late date, 20 November, Yankton Co. (WH). Reports also from Brown, Brookings, and Gregory Co., many more reports than usual.

Common Merganser--21 November, late flock of 150, Deuel Co. (BKH). 27 November, flock of 1820, Yankton Co. (WH).

Red-breasted Merganser--reports from Gavin's Point (GCR) and Yankton Co. (WH).

Turkey Vulture--13 August, unusual concentration of 50+ near Farm Island, Hughes Co. (DB).

Goshawk--2 reports from Black Hills area, where the species nests.

Cooper's Hawk--23-24 August, Gregory Co., suggests nesting birds. This possibility should be checked in the future. Reports also from Brown, Minnehaha, and Turner Co.

Rough-legged Hawk--13 September, Black Hills (JAH, PH). 27 September, Brookings Co. (GCR).

Ferruginous Hawk--27 September, Deuel Co. (BKH) (usually 1-2 each fall in Deuel Co.).

Osprey--reports from Brown, Gregory, Yankton, and Pennington Co. (more than usual).

Merlin--29 November, Clay Co. (RAP).

Peregrine Falcon--23 September, Roberts Co. (BKH, GM) (adult).

Prairie Chicken--27 October, average of 60 feeding with Sharp-tailed Grouse, Lyman Co. (RLS).

Sandhill Crane--20 November, latest date ever, Gregory Co. (GLS). 13 November, Lyman Co. (WCT).

Killdeer--3 November, latest date ever, 3 in Pennington Co. (BHAS) (but species occasionally winters here). 1 November, Perkins Co. (AH) (flocks). 13 November, Lyman Co. (WCT).

Semipalmated Plover--30 September, late date, Minnehaha Co. (SDOU).

Piping Plover--8 September, latest date ever, and 10 August, Clay Co. (WH).

Woodcock--19 October, late date, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Spotted Sandpiper--22 October, late date, Brookings Co. (NJH).

Solitary Sandpiper--7 October, latest date ever, 9 flying over prairie is an unusual number for 1 flock, Pennington Co. (NRW).

Short-billed Dowitcher--16 August, Brown Co. (DAT) (specimen).

American Avocet--19 August, W Meade Co. (JLB, EMS).

Ring-billed Gull--21 November, late date, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Franklin's Gull--17 November, very late date, Day Co. (LLW) (peaked at 40,000, 24 September). 26 October, Yankton Co. (WH).

Bonaparte's Gull--21 November, late date, 8 in Yankton Co. (WH).

Least Tern--10-12 August, Clay Co. (WEL, fide WH).

Snowy Owl--reports from Sand Lake (up to 6 at once) (BLM, CW, ECM, DAT) and from Deuel Co.

Burrowing Owl--26 October, latest date ever, Pennington Co. (NRW). 13 October, Brown Co. (ECM, DAT).

Common Nighthawk--7 October, very late date, Brookings Co. (CAT). 88, Yankton Co., 27 September (WH).

Chimney Swift--7 October, very late date, Brookings Co. (CAT).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird--21 September, very late date, Brookings Co. (CAT).

Red-bellied Woodpecker--2 September, Spink Co. (CB).

Red-headed Woodpecker--17 November, Yankton Co. (RAP) and 16 November, Bon Homme Co. (WH) two late dates. 9 November, Clay Co. (KJH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker--30 September, late date, Minnehaha Co. (GCR).

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker--30 October, Custer Co. (JAH, RH). 11 October, Pennington Co. (MJP).

Olive-sided Flycatcher--15 August, earliest date on record, Yankton Co. (WH).

Blue Jay--23 September, unusual concentration of 90, Grant Co. (BKH, GM).

- Long-billed Marsh Wren--20 October, Bon Homme Co. (RLS). 20 October, Brown Co. (DAT).
- Winter Wren--23 September, early date, Roberts Co. (GM). 19 October, Clay Co. (RAP) (singing bird).
- House Wren--7 October, very late date, Yankton Co. (WH). 6 October, Lawrence Co. (DLB).
- Brown Thrasher--20 November, late date, Yankton Co. (WH).
- Hermit Thrush--29 October, latest date on record, Moody Co. (LIW).
- Wood Thrush--7 September, Newton Hills State Park (GCR) (banded). Very few fall records for this thrush.
- Eastern Bluebird--20 November, latest date on record, Yankton Co. (WH) (109 from mid-October through mid-November!). 12 observed, Brown Co., 16 September (ECM, DAT). 14 observed, Clay Co., 13 October (RAP). Several other records in mid-October from Deuel and Gregory Co. Definitely more records than usual.
- Mountain Bluebird--9 November, very late date and few eastern records in fall migration, Brown Co. (ECM, DAT)
- Mockingbird--26 November, Brown Co. (DAT).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet--13 November, latest date on record, Brookings Co. (NJH) (wintering?).
- Water Pipit--20 October, 50 in Black Hills (JLB, EMS).
- Northern Shrike--reports from Brookings, Gregory, Brown, Pennington, Custer, Yankton, and Day Co. More than in the last several years.
- Bell's Vireo--23 October, Hyde Co. (JHH) (breeding in area?).
- Warbling Vireo--24 September, latest on record, Hyde Co. (JHH).
- Orange-crowned Warbler--20 October, very late date, Black Hills (BHAS). 14 October, Brown Co. (DAT).
- Nashville Warbler--31 October, very late date, Brookings Co. (CAT).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)--20 November, latest on record, 18 individuals, Yankton Co. (WH).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler--23 September, Kingsbury Co. (RLS) (male).
- Blackburnian Warbler--24 August, Brown Co. (DAT). (very few fall records for this species).
- MacGillivray's Warbler--23 September, 10 in Pennington Co. (NRW). Very few fall records available.
- Wilson's Warbler--23 September, Pennington Co. (NRW) (10 seen, although a rare bird in the Black Hills).
- Bobolink--16 October, latest date on record, Brown Co. (DAT, ECM).
- Western Meadowlark--16 November, Yankton Co. (WH). None this late fall in NE!
- Yellow-headed Blackbird--24 November, Deuel Co. (BKH). Also November records from Day and Clark Co.
- Northern Oriole--21 September, very late date, Brookings Co. (CAT). 23 banded at Newton Hills by Rogges, 13 juveniles in net at once!
- Rusty Blackbird--15 November, Gregory Co. (GLS). 25 November, Pennington Co. (JLB).

- Brown-headed Cowbird--15 October, 100 in sheep feedlot, Brookings Co. (NJH).
- Cardinal--22 November, Day Co. (RRJ).
- Black-headed Grosbeak--18 September, late date, Butte Co. (IGW). 29 August, Clay Co. (KJH).
- Dickcissel--7 October, latest date on record, Yankton Co. (JEW, WH).
- Evening Grosbeak--10 October, earliest on record for east, Brown Co. (DAT) (seen also 14 October but none since). Only other east river record, Brookings Co. (CAT).
- Gray-crowned Rosy Finch--20-30 November, only record this season, solitary bird, Pennington Co. (Dr. Kovarik fide NRW).
- White-winged Crossbill--9 September, very early date, Deuel Co. (BKH) (immature or female, close observation, and only record this season).
- Red Crossbill--15 September, early date, Brookings Co. (NJH). Several more flocks, Deuel and Brookings Co., but these left by mid-October. Reported also Day, Brown, Hyde, and Yankton Co. Unprecedented concentration of 200, Gregory Co.. 22 October (GLS).
- Savannah Sparrow--1 November, very late record, Deuel Co. (BKH).
- Grasshopper Sparrow--23 September, Deuel Co. (BKH, GM).
- Vesper Sparrow--3 November, latest date on record, Deuel Co. (BKH).
- Chipping Sparrow--16 October, late date, Brookings Co. (NJH).
- Field Sparrow--28 October, latest date ever, Deuel Co. (BKH). (See last issue for 2 winter records.) Also, 15 October, Hyde Co. (JHH). 22 October, Moody Co. (LIW).
- White-throated Sparrow--10 November, late date, Yankton Co. (WH). A mid-September (early) migration of juncos, Tree, Harris', and White-throated Sparrows was reported.
- White-crowned Sparrow--26, September, early date, Pennington Co. (BHAS). More reports than usual
- Fox Sparrow--23 October, only record, Moody Co. (LIW).
- Lincoln's Sparrow--2 September, earliest on record, Hyde Co. (JHH). Late date, 25 October, Yankton Co. (WH). Good flight statewide.
- Swamp Sparrow--4 November, very late date, Yankton Co. (GCR).
- Song Sparrow--14 November, latest ever, Yankton Co. (WH) (possible wintering bird?).
- McCown's Longspur--29 October, 3 in Custer Co. (MJP). Few recent records.
- Smith's Longspur--23 September, earliest date ever, Deuel Co. (GM, BKH) (excellent view of bird on wire). Latest on record, 28 October, Deuel Co. (BKH). 4 other observations during period, including 2 groups, 27 October, Deuel Co. (BKH) (5 and 12 birds, good views).

CONTRIBUTORS

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| DB | Doug Backlund | ECM | Everett Montgomery |
| CB | Charlotte Baird | BLM | Berle Meyers |
| JLB | Jocelyn Baker | DDO | Dennis Okroi |
| LMB | Les Baylor | MAP | Marge Parker |
| DLB | Dan Bjerke | RAP | Richard Peterson |
| DAB | Dorothy Borelson | GCR | Gladyse & Charles Rogge |
| RHE | Robert Edens | RLS | Ron Spomer |
| JAH | John Hagen | BHAS | Black Hills Audubon Society |
| WH | Willis Hall | EMS | Esther Serr |
| AH | Alfred Hinds | WAS | William Schultze |
| MAJ | Tony Jedrykowski | HOS | Harvey Smith |
| RRJ | Robert Johnson | GLS | Galen Steffens |
| MKH | Mark Harris | CAT | Charles Taylor |
| RH | Reda Hanson | DAT | Dan Tallman |
| BKH | Bruce Harris | WCT | Walter Thietje |
| JHH | June Harter | SJW | Sam Waldstein |
| NJH | Nelda Holden | LLW | Linda Watters |
| KHH | Kenneth Husmann | LIW | Lois Wells |
| KJH | Karolyn Hoover | NRW | Nat Whitney |
| TKK | Tim Kessler | CW | C. Wilson |
| WEL | William Lemons | JEW | Juli Wilcox |
| GM | Gale Monson | | |

Answers to Last Issue's Puzzle

Down:

1. SCAUP 7. SPRAGUE 8. VIREO 24. PHEASANT 36. OSPREY
37. GREBE 44. DRAKE 57. IBIS 67. LONGSPUR 75. KNOT
81. DIPPER 86. REDWING 89. AVES 90. RED 105. COOPERS
108. WREN 111. TRILL 116. DUNLIN 121. EVENING 131. PLOVER
155. HYBRID 166. KITE 187. ORIOLE 193. PHOEBE 195. LANIDAE
198. GOSHAWK 201. HORNEDGREBE 204. DOWITCHER 205. LOXIA
207 NUTHATCH 247. AUKLET 257. CHATS

Across:

2. TARSUS 8. VESPER 14. CAPEMAY 21. PEEP 28. HARRIER
41. PIED 45. STARLING 53. APODIDAE 69. REDBACKEDSANDPIPER
88. LARK 100. VEERY 105. CROW 114. ED 118. TREE 122. SPARROW
132. CUCKOO 149. RAIL 155. HERON 161. TERN 168. GYR
175. MIMIDAE 182. BLUE 186. NO 195. LOGGERHEAD 206. IN
208. SHRIKE 219. DUCK 225. PINE 231. WAX 235. TEAL
247. ANI 254. AVOCET 262. WOODDUCK 278. EAGLE 283. ALDER
288. REDEYED 300. SAWWHET 307. AUDUBON

**SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES NEEDS YOUR BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOS
FOR FUTURE COVERS. PLEASE SUBMIT AS MANY AS YOU
WISH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Published by
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
Editor: Dr. Dan Tallman
NSC Box 740
Aberdeen, S.D. 57401

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 60
Aberdeen, S.D. 57401

1980 SDOU Spring Meeting 16 - 18 May at Sisseton

Motels

Holiday Motel Phone 698-7644, 19 rooms available, East highway 10

Singles \$14.00 15.00 16.00

Doubles \$18.00 20.00 22.00 \$2.00 per extra person in room

Viking Motel Phone 698-7663, 18 rooms available, West highway 10

Singles \$13.00

Doubles \$16.00 (2 people/ one bed)

\$19.00 (2 people/ two beds)

Campgrounds

Hartford Beach State Park 39 miles Southeast of Sisseton

Roy Lake State Park 22 miles West of Sisseton on Highway 10

Pickrel Lake State Park 20 to 25 miles Southwest of Sisseton

Field Trips (tentative)

Sica Hollow and Roy Lake Area

Hartford Beach and Big Stone Lake Area

Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Surrounding Area

White Rock, Mud Lake, Dry Run (a large marsh), 1,800 acre prairie state game production land and surrounding area

Headquarters

Sisseton American Legion Hall, Northeast Room enter through Northeast door located at the junction of Highway 10 and 81.