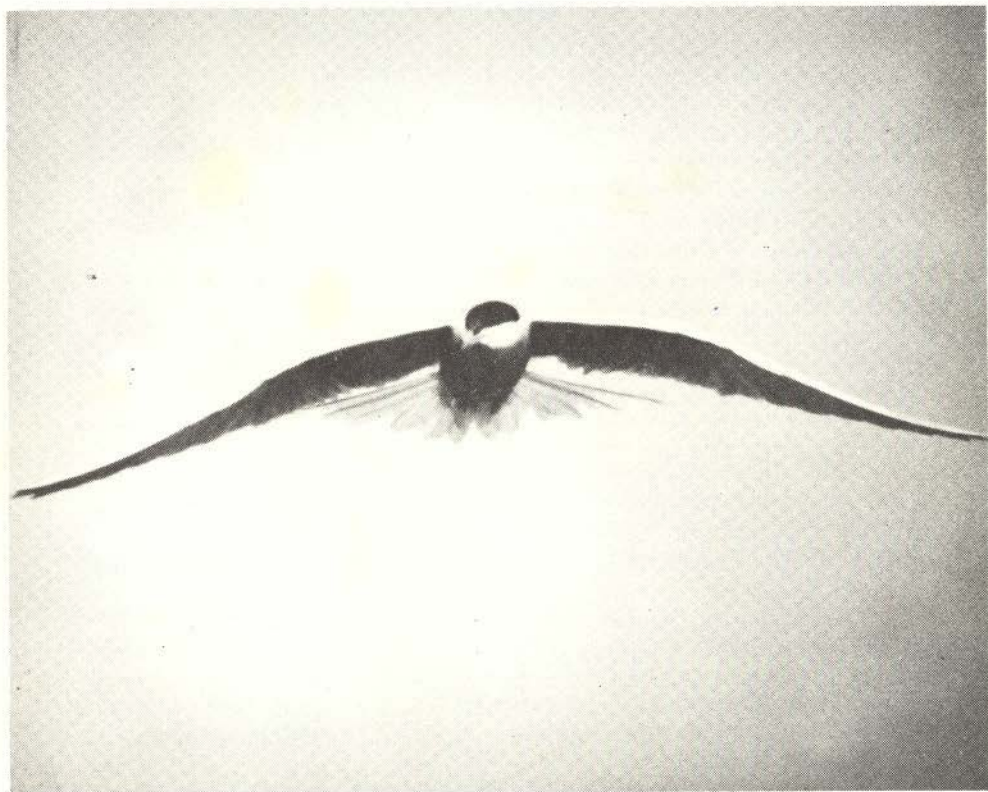


# *South Dakota Bird Notes*

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*Common Tern*

*Photo: Don Artz*

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Last December's President's Page dealt with the topic of bird behavior, emphasizing those aspects of behavior controlled largely by instinct. However, no bird's actions are governed completely by instinctive behavior. All creatures have some ability to learn. Compared to other animals,

birds possess an ability to learn that is quite high. Laboratory experiments show birds to be able to learn complex actions, thereby obtaining rewards of food. For example, chickens very quickly learn to pick up every other grain of corn out of rows in which every second kernel is glued down.

In the wild, birds must learn to recognize many environmental situations that they would have no way of knowing through instinct. Examples of such situations include recognizing territorial boundaries, locating nests, knowing mates and offspring, and finding food and cover. Actually, instinct and learning interact. A bird may be able to fly instinctively, but it learns to fly better with experience. Likewise, older birds build better nests than younger ones. The method of song acquisition is variable. Some birds sing instinctively, others learn their song from other birds of their species, but most species sing parts of their song instinctively while learning other parts from parents or neighbors.

Even though a behavior may be common throughout a population, one can not take for granted that the action is innate or instinctive for the group of birds. Whole populations can learn quickly. For example, birds learn to avoid many obnoxious insects. That this avoidance is not innate can be proved by watching young birds' violent rejection of inedible insects!

Looking at learning simplistically, we can classify four categories. The first is conditioning, learning to respond to a different and new sign as a stimulus for a certain behavior. The classic example of conditioning is Pavlov's dog experiments. Pavlov rang a bell every time he fed his dog. After some time, the dog would salivate at the sound of the bell, even if no food was in sight.

The second category is trial-and-error learning. Here an animal tries different alternatives to a problem until he finds a solution. This method is exploratory and the finding of the correct response is accidental. But, if the process is repeated enough times, the animal learns to select the correct solution every time.

The third type of learning is insight. Insight takes place suddenly and appears to eliminate the process of trial-and-error. Decisions are made immediately. Apparently problems are associated and recognized in the mind. We do not know if birds can learn through insight.

The final form of learning, occurring in birds and some other animals, is called imprinting. Newly hatched Graylag Geese accept as their parent the first large, moving object they see. In nature, this object would be the mother goose. But, when geese are hatched in an incubator and see a human first, they identify that person as their proper parent and follow him everywhere. A critical age for imprinting occurs in birds; Mallards are most susceptible between 13 and 16 hours after hatching. The strength of imprinting does not depend as much on the time involved in the imprinting period as it does on the amount of effort expended by the young in following the imprinting object. Imprinting is irreversible and takes a relatively short time to take effect. Imprinting, then, can be defined as an innate disposition to learn quickly certain things at definite times during the development of the individual.

## **BIRD AWARENESS AMONG EARLY GREAT PLAINS PEOPLE**

by **Gilbert W. Blankespoor**

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In an introductory paragraph, the author of a modern textbook of ornithology describes birds in terms of their complex sensory capacity, their highly diverse and pleasing appearance and behavior, their basically inoffensive habits, and then concludes: "little wonder that ornithology, the science of birds, boasts so many practitioners" (Pettingill 1970:1). Today many "practitioners" practice the art of bird study, adjusting their focus so that the resulting image includes not just the birds but, also, the total natural system of which birds are a part. Birds become a springboard into a general awareness that is basically esthetic rather than utilitarian. But, has this always been the case? Historically, are nonutilitarian interests in the natural world a luxury that not many people have been able to afford? Is bird awareness in the esthetic sense to be expected only when people are living the good life?

I will attempt to answer these questions in a tentative fashion by examining perceptions of birds and other natural objects as they are discernible among early Great Plains people. The following groups will be considered: Great Plains Indians, mountain men who traveled across the Great Plains, military men garrisoned on the Great Plains, and northern European immigrants.



### Great Plains Indians

I cannot emphasize too strongly that the Indians' approach to the natural world proceeds from a philosophical base completely different from that of the other groups. To the Indian, no inanimate objects existed in the natural world. Rather, the Indian saw "plant-persons," "animal-persons," and even "rock-persons." These nature-persons had intelligence, knowledge, and powers of their own. Every Indian understood that his very survival depended on his getting the help and cooperation of these nature-persons.

Since hunting was a major preoccupation of the Great Plains Indians, the animal-persons were more important than were the other nature-persons. A Dakotah Indian knew that his own knowledge, skill, and diligence did not insure the success of the hunt. Also required was an understanding of the animal's spiritual qualities (Hassrick 1964). Hunting, then, became an enterprise that had a mystical quality.

Among the Pawnee, the animal-persons were thought to be servants of an all-powerful ruler who used them to communicate with man (Grinnell 1961). Since they were the messengers of the ruler, praying to these animal-persons often became necessary. Sometimes the animal-persons were asked to help directly and at other times they were asked to be intercessors. Usually, small prayer requests were made to the animal-persons while large requests were addressed directly to the ruler. Marriot and Rachlin (1968: 177) note that "birds and their feathers are believed to carry man's prayers directly to God." Certain species, especially some of the birds of prey, were thought to have easy access to God.

Because many of these beneficent and cooperative animal-persons were also potential food items, one might suspect the Indian faced a perplexing dilemma. Actually, no dilemma existed because the Indians believed that animals did not really die. They simply sloughed off their fur or feathers and went back to an earlier state. However, the Dakotah Indian believed that animal families required respect and propitiation in return for permitting some of their numbers to be killed for food (Hassrick 1964). The exact nature of these "demands" was often made known through visions.

Another important activity for Indian men was war. Once again, the good will and cooperation of nature-persons was absolutely essential. This assistance was coveted because the nature-persons, in particular the animal-persons, possessed special powers that could be conferred upon the warrior. The obtaining of these powers virtually guaranteed success in war.

That the Dakotah people became very familiar with the birds is evident from the fact that their language includes names for most of the bird species to be found on the Prairie (Buechel 1970). In many cases, distinctions are made between species that closely resemble each other.

The eminent anthropologist Levi-Strauss, in his book *The Savage Mind* (1966:8), mentions that most early people had an amazing knowledge of the natural world and concludes that "knowledge as systematically developed as this clearly cannot relate just to practical purposes." In a

later paragraph, Lévi-Strauss (1966:9) adds, “. . . one may readily conclude that animals and plants are not known as a result of their usefulness: they are deemed to be useful or interesting because they are first of all known.”

But did the Indians have a sense of esthetic? Can we expect such a sense as a nonIndian might define it? Perhaps the Indians were such an integral part of their nature-spirit world that they could not have any perception of the totality of the natural system. Perhaps a sense of the esthetic requires a certain amount of actual or supposed transcendence.

A large volume of literature exists that attempts to describe the cultures of the various tribes that lived on the Great Plains. In many of these accounts, bits and pieces relate to what I have been calling bird-awareness. A number of these bits are presented in the next sections of this paper.

### **Pawnee**

George Bird Grinnell, in a book called *Pawnee Hero Stories and Folk Tales* (1961), describes the importance of animals to the Pawnee generally, offering the ornithological tidbit that “small boys hunted martins, quail and prairie chickens.”

On an expedition to a Pawnee village, Irving (1955) describes an episode involving a dozen white cranes that had been spotted resting on a sandbar on the Platte River. Upon hearing of the cranes, an excited party of soldiers and Indians left for the Platte, planning to stalk and shoot the cranes. Fortunately, the cranes, which might have been Whoopers, flew off before they could be shot. Irving's account includes a number of additional references to birds, most of them not involving Pawnees. He notes that, on one occasion, he shot at a flock of paroquets. Another time he and his party amused themselves by discharging their rifles at ravens and vultures that flew overhead.

### **Blackfeet**

Grinnell also wrote about the Blackfeet in a book called *Blackfoot Lodge Tales, the Story of a Prairie People* (1962a). Included are a few ornithological references, some describing the various powers possessed by birds. For example, geese were thought to have great wisdom and knowledge about the weather. If a raven flew over a lodge, someone would surely come that day to tell news from far-off.

Eagles were very important to the Blackfeet and to most other Great Plains tribes. Eagle feathers were used to fashion headdresses and were attached to shields, lances, and other weapons. Eagle wings were used to make fans. Body feathers became arrow parts. Eagle feathers became a kind of coin of the realm; in trade, five eagles might be worth one horse. Many Great Plains tribes trapped eagles. Bait lured eagles to camouflaged pits in which trappers lay hidden. Eagle trapping often involved elaborate religious preparatory ceremonies.

### **Dakotah (Sioux)**

Most of the bird references in Hassrick's (1964) description of Dakotah culture involve species that were used as food. Although Prairie Chickens

were shot, most other species were clubbed, snared, or trapped. The Dakotah caught snowbirds with horsehair snares before the birds were boiled or roasted on coals and eaten. They trapped crows and magpies like eagles. The eggs of ducks, cranes, pigeons, meadowlarks, magpies, and owls were eaten with gusto. But the Dakotah shunned goose eggs, which were thought to cause carbuncles. Dakotah boys kept crows, hawks, and eagles as pets and hawks and owls for their feathers.

### **Arikara**

The Arikara hunted ducks and geese for food. Many birds of prey were sought for their feathers (South Dakota Works Projects Administration 1941). Apparently, the Arikara often went to the Badlands to trap eagles. The sacred bundles of the Arikara often contained skins prepared from certain bird species.

### **Cheyenne**

In a third book, Grinnell (1962b) describes how young Cheyenne boys sharpened their bowhunting skills on small birds and how they practiced stealth by creeping up on woodpeckers, blackbirds, or meadowlarks. If these serious efforts ended in success, the final act involved the eating of the prey item. Many species, especially waterfowl, were eaten. Ducks were exceptionally vulnerable during their annual late-season molt because of their flightlessness.

The Cheyenne thought many species (including eagles, hawks, ravens, owls, magpies, and Sandhill Cranes) possessed power in matters relating to war. Therefore, people attached feathers of these species to shields and other weapons. A man with owl feathers on his head was thought to have especially good night vision and be able to move about very silently. The Cheyenne thought highly of woodpeckers and often used parts of woodpecker bodies in their medicine lodge ceremony.

Eagle feathers were prized by the Cheyennes. This tribe prized Bald Eagle feathers over those of Golden Eagles. Bald Eagle feathers in war bonnets protected warriors from bullets and arrows.

In a book called *Indian Boyhood*, C. A. Eastman (1971) recalls his childhood among the Indians. He remembers playing "medicine dance" during which various-colored feathers from many species were used. He remembers keeping birds of all kinds as pets. Finally, he recalls that, as boys, they were merciless towards birds, destroying their eggs and killing their nestlings.

### **The Mountain Men**

Of all the people who lived on the Great Plains, none excite the imaginations of modern students of the West quite as much as do mountain men. Although their time of influence was just a couple of decades, they effectively opened the West to settlement by finding "easy" routes across the mountains and, unhappily, by introducing alcohol and smallpox to the Indians.

Generally, they appear to have been coarse and savage men. Goetzmann (1978) suggests that they did not love the wilderness for its own sake but viewed it largely as an opportunity to make money in the fur trade.

But not all of the mountain men fit this description; Cleland (1950) indicates that some were sober, literate, and often deeply religious. Of this later group, Jim Bridger is portrayed by Vestal (1946) as an hospitable, generous, compassionate, and agreeable man. If we are to believe Vestal, Bridger was among the most gentle of his type. Yet we lack evidence in the biography that Jim Bridger possessed any esthetic or ecological appreciation for animals in general or birds in particular. But the mountain men did have an animal and bird awareness and it was decidedly practical in character. Some students of mountain men say that, in order to exist in his savage environment, the mountain man became less "civilized" until his wilderness skills matched those of his Indian opponents. For both groups, survival depended upon an intimate familiarity with the natural world. So we can conclude that mountain men knew their birds. Some birds were good to eat when buffalo hump wasn't available while other birds disclosed enemies' movements or communicated other information important to survival. But we ought not conclude that bird-awareness for mountain men and Indians were the same. Mountain men did not consider birds to be nature-persons, but simply nature objects to be exploited. Man-bird interactions lacked anything of a mystical quality.

#### **Military Men**

Especially during the 19th century, military forts were an important part of the Great Plains scene. Since the environment was harsh, the work load heavy, and the dangers real, the average soldier probably had neither the time nor the inclination to cultivate a sense of bird-awareness. At least one source gives us a clue as to how these men perceived birds and other animals: reports of medical officers prepared in the late 1860's. The Surgeon General ordered each medical officer to "make more complete, the observations of (your) predecessors in relation to the natural history of the vicinity of the post" (Surgeon General's Office 1870). Consequently, each report contained climatological, topographical, geological, and biological data. Most, but not all, reports included bird lists. The birds were usually game species. For example, the report from Fort Ransom, Dakota Territory, only included the following species: wild pigeon, plover, snipe, wood duck, brant, and wild geese. A few lists were relatively extensive, including birds that clearly were not game species. These longer lists probably reflected particular sensitivities and interests on the part of the medical officers who prepared them. From the meager data available, I conclude that military men garrisoned at the prairie forts were aware only of the few birds that provided food.

#### **North European Immigrants**

Adequate treatment of this important final group requires a careful perusal of the voluminous literature that exists for each of the ethnic groups that settled on the Great Plains. I will refer to just a couple of these sources and also share some general impressions of my own.

I feel that the north European immigrants were less aware of the total



natural environment than were earlier inhabitants of the Plains. This feeling is based, in part, on my own experience with second and third generation Dutch immigrants among whom such awareness appears to be virtually absent. In a footnote in *Giants in the Earth*, Rolvaag (1927:38) notes that the first settlers found the prairie to be singularly free of sound. A person tuned to the prairie would never have come to that conclusion.

The immigrants did not depend upon the environment as highly as did the mountain men and the Indians. Their survival depended not so much on knowing the natural environment as it depended on the success of the spring planting. Ronning, in a book called *Fifty Years in America* (1938:21), asks rhetorically, "Did the immigrant learn to love the woods and prairies, the grass and trees, and flowers and birds?" Ronning answers his question with these words: "He loved the piece of land that was his from the first time he saw it; there was a love song in his heart when he turned the first furrow and the rich soil appeared." What Ronning seems to be saying, perhaps unintentionally, is that the immigrant did *not* come to love the grass and birds and flowers and trees but, rather, became intensely preoccupied with the land that was now his.

But some immigrants were aware of birds. In a book called *The Logbook of a Young Immigrant* (1939:28), Laurence Larson describes a rather large number of birds he remembers as a boy on the Iowa prairie. He does mention, though, that "to the lesser birds we gave only slight attention." He concludes his description of the natural history of the prairie by saying that the pioneers brought with them the plow, the trap, and the shotgun and that, after a few years, much of the delightful diversity of the prairie had disappeared.

Another boy who grew up on the prairie, Henry Vander Pol, wrote a book entitled *On the Reservation Border-Hollanders in Douglas and Charles Mix County* (1969). Vander Pol recalls crane and hawk migrations and describes a few bird species that existed on the prairie during his adolescence. Perhaps significantly, both Larson and Vander Pol only recounted boyhood experiences.

### Conclusion

Although my evidence is admittedly fragmentary, I conclude that most early Great Plains people were aware of birds primarily from functional and utilitarian points of view: And, even this kind of awareness may have been poorly developed in military men and in early immigrants. Little evidence exists that any Plains people had a well defined appreciation for birds as important components of the total ecological system; nor did they enjoy any esthetic appreciation for birds. Nature-watching in general and bird-watching in particular are likely luxuries affordable only in affluent societies that are no longer immediately dependent on their natural environment.

### Acknowledgements

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# BIRD REMAINS FROM THE BAGNELL SITE (320L16), OLIVER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

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Birds were of considerable significance in both the social and economic aspects of the lives of the Plains Indian tribes. Although bison, elk, deer, and antelope provided the greatest quantity of meat in these peoples' diets, a variety of smaller mammals (e.g., jack rabbit) and certain species or groups of birds (waterfowl, grouse) served as important supplemental foods. In the case of birds, almost every local species was hunted or collected for one purpose or another. They were used for food, for feathers, for body parts (wings, beaks, claws), implements (bone tubes, whistles), for symbols of particular physical attributes, or for use in ceremonial or religious activities. Undoubtedly, many species served more than one function.

The sample of avian remains I am reporting in this article was recovered periodically between 1970 and 1973 at the Bagnell Site, at Hidatsa village on the west bank of the Missouri River, Oliver Co., North Dakota. The sample consists of about 475 pieces. A minimum of 127 individuals, representing 21 families of birds and about 44 species, is recorded (Appendix I). Based on the available sample, the particular importance of waterfowl, hawks, grouse, corvids, and other passerines is readily perceived.

Remains of waterfowl (swans, geese, ducks) constitute about 12% of all identifiable elements, grouse 11%, corvids (magpies, crows, ravens) 16%, and the other passerines 26%. Although the feathers and/or body parts of waterfowl and grouse may have been used, one can assume that their primary value was that of a supplemental food. Osteologically, the Sharp-tailed Grouse and the Prairie Chicken are extremely similar; they can only be identified with certainty on the basis of the synsacrum and, tentatively, on the overall proportions of a few other elements such as the tarsometatarsus. Since the Prairie Chicken was reportedly unknown from the central and western sections of the Dakotas prior to European settlement, all grouse from the Bagnell Site are probably Sharp-tails.

At least 11 species of raptors are represented in the Bagnell Site avifauna: two of these species are owls and nine are hawks, eagles, and falcons. Use of these predatory birds for feathers and various body parts by aboriginal man, especially by Plains groups, is well documented (e.g., Parmalee 1977). But, surprisingly, 25% of the identified species from the Bagnell Site are hawks and owls. Remains of magpies, crows, and ravens (another group of birds of special significance to the Indian) are also well represented in this sample. Their bones comprise about 16% of the identified elements and 11% of the total number of individuals.

Thirteen passerine species are identified in the sample, although several others are probably represented. The majority of the 108 Indeterminate Passerine elements recorded include incomplete bones or those such as the ulnae, scapulae, wing digits, and the like--all specifically non-diagnostic. Possibly, some of these small birds (warbler to meadowlark in size) were eaten. But they may have served some special ceremonial or other nonfood purpose. Of special interest is the quantity of Red-headed Woodpecker remains (41 elements, a minimum of 10 individuals), a species belonging to a family of birds that was highly esteemed by numerous Indian groups and that played a significant role in the Indians' social and ceremonial activities. Several of the scored and/or scraped elements in the sample (e.g., the skull of a raven cut off at the cere, a Marsh? Hawk ulna bone "tube," the discarded "ring-and-snap" proximal end of a Whooping? Crane humerus, and the cut and scraped distal end of a Golden Eagle ulna) indicate that certain birds and bird bones were also put to special use by the Bagnell Site inhabitants.

The identification and interpretation of avian remains from archaeological sites such as the Bagnell and the Moberg Site (Arikara) in South Dakota (Parmalee 1979) provide interesting insights into the Indian's use of and appreciation for birds. Bird remains from most early prehistoric sites in North America are dominated by local species that were taken primarily in connection with subsistence needs. In the case of late prehistoric and early historic groups, the archaeological record provides an indication of greater use of a variety of species that were hunted more for their value in symbolic activities than in the food economy. This use of birds for symbolic activities is especially true in the case of the early historic Plains groups where certain birds (e.g., raptors and corvids) played a significant role in major cultural affairs.

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Appendix I. Birds Identified from the Bagnell Site (320L16), Oliver County, North Dakota.

Species	No. of pieces	Minimum no. of individuals
cf. Swan, <i>Olor</i> sp.	1	1
Canada Goose, <i>Branta canadensis</i>	7	2
cf. Snow Goose, <i>Chen caerulescens</i>	3	2
Goose sp.	2	-
cf. Mallard, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	12	4
Mallard, pintail, gadwall group, <i>Anas</i> spp.	12	4
cf. Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i>	1	1
cf. Pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i>	2	1
Green-winged Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>	5	3
?Ruddy Duck, <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	1	1
Duck spp.	10	-
Turkey Vulture, <i>Cathartes aura</i>	1	1
cf. Sharp-shinned Hawk, <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	5	2
cf. Cooper's Hawk, <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	5	2?
Red-tailed Hawk, <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> , and/or Rough-legged Hawk, <i>Buteo cf. lagopus</i>	6	2
Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and/or Swainson's Hawk, <i>Buteo</i> spp.	9	2?
Golden Eagle, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	5	1
Bald Eagle, <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	3	1
Eagle sp.	2	-
Marsh Hawk, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	25	5
Hawk sp.	2	-
cf. Pigeon Hawk, <i>Falco columbarius</i>	2	1
Sparrow Hawk, <i>Falco sparverius</i>	8	2
cf. Sharp-tailed Grouse, <i>Pedipodoces phasianellus</i>	5	3
Sharp-tailed Grouse, <i>P. phasianellus</i> , and/or Prairie Chicken, <i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>	49	7
cf. Whooping Crane, <i>Grus americana</i>	2	2?
Virginia Rail, <i>Rallus limicola</i>	2	1
American Coot, <i>Fulica americana</i>	2	1
Upland Plover, <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	4	2?
Franklin's? Gull, <i>Larus cf. pipixcan</i>	1	1
Gull, <i>Larus</i> spp.	13	3
Black Tern, <i>Chelidonias nigra</i>	1	1
Passenger Pigeon, <i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	3	2?
Great Horned Owl, <i>Bubo virginianus</i>	5	1
Short-eared? Owl, <i>Asio cf. flammeus</i>	6	3
Nighthawk, <i>Chordeiles minor</i>	4	2
Common Flicker, <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	3	2
Red-headed Woodpecker, <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	41	10
Downy Woodpecker, <i>Contopus pubescens</i>	1	1
Horned Lark, <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	1	1
Purple Martin, <i>Progne subis</i>	1	1
Black-billed Magpie, <i>Pica pica</i>	20	5
Common Raven, <i>Corvus corax</i>	38	6
Common Crow, <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	14	3
Chickadee, <i>Parus cf. atricapillus</i>	1	1

Robin, <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	1	1
Warbler sp.	2	1
cf. Yellow-headed Blackbird, <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	4	2
Red-winged Blackbird, <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	1	1
?Pine Grosbeak, <i>Picicola ewingii</i>	1	1
Crossbill, <i>Lania</i> sp.	1	1
Snow Bunting, <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	1	1
Indet. Passerines	108	22?
Indet. bird bone pieces	14	-
TOTALS	479	127

## GOLDFINCH SPRING: Spring 1980 Banding at Aberdeen

by **Dan Allen Tallman**

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### Introduction

Because of the acquisition of a thistle seed feeder, my first spring (January through May 1980) banding at Aberdeen, Brown Co., South Dakota, proved to be an unexpected ornithological delight. This report is the second in a continuing series of banding articles covering my activities at my back yard banding station (see Tallman 1979).

### Materials and Methods

Since my first report (Tallman 1979), I added two suet feeders and a thistle (niger) seed feeder to my study area. Net positions and days active per month remained about the same as during the previous fall. The winter and spring of 1980 were snowless and relatively warm. Only birds banded and released are included with the present data, a total of 437 individuals comprising 34 species.

### Results and Discussion

The thistle feeder mentioned above is claimed by its manufacturer to be a goldfinch magnet. Almost two months passed, however, before a bird of any species visited it. Goldfinches are not supposed to be very common in northeastern South Dakota in the winter (Whitney et al. 1978): only 24 were observed during the 1979 Aberdeen Christmas Bird Count (Tallman 1980). On 11 February, the first American Goldfinch appeared at my feeder. The following four months witnessed an almost continual influx of goldfinches into the feeding station. By the end of May, I had banded 155. A graph of American Goldfinches banded during four-day intervals from February through mid-May produces an extremely smooth curve. Almost all increments in numbers of birds banded are within the standard deviation for the whole data set, suggesting a large but continually shifting resident population or a slowly moving migratory one. The latter

possibility is unlikely if goldfinches migrate from mid-April until mid-May (Whitney et al. 1978). Had I been trapping a single population of finches, I would have expected a more sigmoid shape to this graph. Only in May did the numbers of new goldfinches finally taper off. This species has been relatively uncommon at the feeder during the summer and early fall. During the spring, few goldfinches were retrapped, suggesting that the banded birds quickly learned net positions or moved out of the area after being banded. Banded goldfinches did appear at two other feeders in Aberdeen, presumably (although not positively) my birds. These two feeders were about 0.5 miles east and 1.0 miles ESE of my banding station. None of the 64 goldfinches that I banded the previous fall was retrapped at my feeder. After not banding during June and July 1980, I retrapped one of the spring goldfinches on 17 August 1980; the bird was first banded on 18 May 1980.

Appendix I shows the relative abundances of the seven other Fringillids that I banded in the 1980 spring. The previous winter was poor for winter finches throughout most of South Dakota (Tallman 1980). Of these seven species, Dark-eyed Juncos were the most abundant. The appendix clearly shows that Tree Sparrows are also early migrants in NE South Dakota, this sparrow and the junco preceding other migrants by a whole month. I was surprised to catch no White-crowned Sparrows or Fox Sparrows and to band only one of the commonly occurring Harris' Sparrows. Ten Harris' Sparrows had been banded the previous fall.

Whitney et al. (1978) report that the Swainson's Thrushes out number Gray-cheeks up to ten to one. My banding last fall (three Swainson's and no Gray-cheeks) bore out this conclusion. Similar results were found in 1979 by the Rogges' (1980) 9/2 ratio. Yet, in the 1980 spring, I found more Gray-cheeks than Swainson's Thrushes (see Appendix II), a difference that is further magnified when dealing in percentages.

The surprises in the warbler count (Appendix III) came in the low numbers of individuals caught, the few species banded, and the relatively high number of ovenbirds, a species thought by Baird (1980) to be declining in eastern South Dakota. I should mention that few warblers were seen in the Aberdeen area during the 1980 spring migration.

Woodpecker banding at Aberdeen for the whole 1979-80 season (Appendix IV) presents nothing unexpected, except for the continued avoidance of my nets by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Besides woodpeckers, I banded 14 other species in the study area (Appendix V) between January and May 1980.

### Summary

From January through May 1980, I banded 34 species (434 individuals) at my backyard banding station at 1506 SE Third Ave., Aberdeen, Brown Co., South Dakota. A fourth of these individuals were American Goldfinches, attracted to the area by a thistle seed feeder. The remaining species lists contain a few unexpected population ratios and tend to confirm the field impression that the 1980 spring migration at Aberdeen was poor.

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#### APPENDIX I. OTHER FRINGILLIDS

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	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL	%
PURPLE FINCH	1					1	1%
PINE SISKIN			2	1		3	2%
DARK-EYED JUNCO	4	3	50	25		83	64%
TREE SPARROW			10			10	8%
CHIPPING SPARROW				2	6	8	6%
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW					4	4	3%
HARRIS' SPARROW					1	1	1%
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW					8	8	6%
LINCOLN'S SPARROW					11	11	9%

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#### APPENDIX II. THRUSHES

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	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL	%
HERMIT THRUSH				2		2	15%
SWAINSON'S THRUSH					5	5	39%
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH					6	6	46%

---

#### APPENDIX III. WARBLERS

---

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL	%
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER					1	1	4%
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER				1	5	6	24%
YELLOW WARBLER					4	4	16%
OVENBIRD					13	13	52%
YELLOWTHROAT					1	1	4%

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#### APPENDIX IV. WOODPECKERS

---

HAIRY WOODPECKER			3	20%			
DOWNY WOODPECKER			5	33%			
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER			7	47%			

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#### APPENDIX V. OTHER BIRDS BANDED

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COMMON GRACKLE				63			
AMERICAN ROBIN				17			
"TRAILL'S" FLYCATCHER				6			
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET				6			
HOUSE WREN				4			
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE				3			
BROWN THRASHER				3			

---



STARLING	3
"BALTIMORE" ORIOLE	3
CATBIRD	2
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	2
BROWN CREEPER	1
CEDEAR WAXWING	1

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## GENERAL NOTES

FIRST STATE RECORD FOR THE LOUISIANA HERON.--During the afternoon of 28 June 1980, Gary Stave and I conducted colonial bird nest counts at Peever Slough, Roberts Co., one mile E Peever. From the cat-tails about 200 yards ahead of us, we flushed a medium-sized heron. I noted its small size but, not until the bird cut a diagonal line away from us, did the two-tone pattern of the breast and belly become apparent. The heron seemed to be relatively slim. I called to Gary to take a good look at the bird but it was out of sight before he could find it in his binoculars.

Fortunately, the Louisiana Heron flushed from the heavy marsh vegetation three more times while we worked the area. Once it flew within 150 yards of our canoe, giving us a fine view in bright sunlight. We carefully noted the slim silhouette, long legs, and long, slim bill. The blue-gray back and upper wings and dark neck and breast contrasted sharply with the white belly. I know this species well from birding in Texas and Florida; I have no doubt that our identification is correct.

The Louisiana Heron has occurred in Minnesota and North Dakota during recent years, nesting in both these states (Schmidt, *The Prairie Naturalist*, Vol. 11, p. 93). North Dakota recorded its first Louisiana Heron in 1976 and a nest was found on 30 July 1978. In Minnesota it was first recorded in 1963, with subsequent sightings in 1971, 1976, and 1977.

I am submitting this record to the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union's Records Committee on the Rare Bird Sighting Form for official acceptance of the Louisiana Heron to the state list.--Bruce Harris, Clear Lake 57226.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER NEST IN BROOKINGS COUNTY.--While searching for woodpecker cavities on 20 June 1980 along the Big Sioux River, Brookings Co., I found an active Red-bellied Woodpecker nest. The cavity was located in a limb of a dead American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) about 20 meters from the river. The habitat immediately surrounding (0.04 ha) the nest tree was dominated by dead American Elms with virtually no canopy cover.

Previous Red-bellied Woodpecker sightings in Brookings Co. have been limited to the winter. However, nesting records exist for the Huron and Yankton areas (Whitney et al., *Birds of South Dakota*, SDOU 1978).

Both the male and the female were observed returning regularly and entering the nest cavity, presumably to feed young. At least one of the adults uttered a low-pitched call when the adults were at the nest together. No young were heard. My sighting is later than Hall's (*South Dakota Bird Notes* 21:62, 1969) 12 June observations of young being fed near Yankton.

Although a 10 km stretch of the river north of State Highway 77 was intensively searched for all woodpecker nests and although Red-bellied Woodpecker calls were heard in another location, no other nests of this species were found.--Barry Parrish, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University, Brookings 57007.

SPRING 1980 WOODCOCK NEST ON SIOUX RIVER FLOODPLAIN, BROOKINGS COUNTY.--While conducting a weekly search for Mourning Doves at Conservation Park south of Brookings (Coop. Dove Study, USFWS), I often flushed American Woodcock. I repeatedly flushed two to four woodcock from the moist, low, wooded area bordered by highway 77 on the west and an oxbow on the east. This piece of floodplain is little more than 30 square meters in total area. An open grass field lies to the north of this riparian area providing, suitable display air space.

A woodcock was recorded in the city of Brookings in 1962 (Holden 1962). Nelda Holden sighted "peenting" woodcock and courtship flights near Conservation Park in the springs of 1979 and 1980.

On 16 June 1980, I was walking toward an elm tree that contained a dove and a nest. I just started to mark the nest tree when a woodcock flushed less than one meter from my feet. The bird, "peenting," alighted in grass about 40 meters away. With little effort, I located the nest.

The three brown eggs, speckled with darker brown, lay on matted grass in a nest no more than 15 cm in diameter. According to Bent (1927), the woodcock lays one egg on successive days until a clutch of four is attained. I saw no sign of a fourth egg within or nearby the nest.

On 18 June I returned to the nest site with Scott E. Norelius and Loren Smith (Wildlife graduate students, SDSU) to take a picture of the hen on the nest. My efforts proved fruitless due to the grass surrounding the nest, which obstructed my view. Too near an approach flushed the hen. I hurriedly took three black and white photos of the eggs in the nest and left the area to permit the bird to return before the eggs chilled.

On 23 June I returned to the area to conduct the weekly Mourning Dove search. The three woodcock eggs had hatched. I was unable to locate the chicks at the nest. Later I flushed three woodcock within 50 meters of the nest and one no more than 10 meters from the nest.

Bent (1927) lists the incubation period for the woodcock at 20-21 days, starting after the last egg has been laid. Allowing for the five-day period during which I did not disturb the nest and the total laying and hatching time of 23-24 days, I estimate that the nest was initiated between the last week of May and the first week of June. Gates (1973) discovered a wood-

cock nest near Oakwood Lakes State Park that hatched on 29 April, nearly two months earlier than the one I describe.

Whitney et al. (1978) state that there have been only three documented woodcock nesting attempts in South Dakota. Harris (1980) lists one other unverified nesting case in 1963. A thorough literature review suggests that my record is the second documented nest in Brookings Co. and only the fourth woodcock nesting attempt reported in South Dakota.

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--Kelly B. McPhillips, Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, South Dakota State University, Brookings 57007.

## BOOK REVIEW

by Erika and Dan Tallman

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*A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies* by Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1980. 384 pp. Soft cover: \$10.00; Hard cover: \$15.00.

The long-awaited new edition of Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds* of eastern and central North America will delight bird students, both amateur and professional. The illustrations are superb and the format convenient and informative. We believe this book is a valuable aid to bird identification but some limitations exist that should be mentioned. We will compare and contrast this new work with Robbins' *Field Guide to North American Birds* so that the reader can assess the best qualities of each and decide for himself which publication best fills his needs.

The most obvious deficiency of Peterson's work for South Dakotans is that his guide includes only those species found east of the 100th meridian. Unfortunately for us, this meridian cuts South Dakota right down the middle. Many western species are regularly seen in eastern South Dakota. Therefore, this book alone is inadequate for the South Dakota bird watcher. If one chose to buy *only one* field guide, the best choice would be Robbins', which is as equally compact as Peterson's but includes illustrations and range maps for all species normally encountered in the continental United States.

Of utmost importance to any field guide is the quality of the illustrations. In this respect, both Peterson and Robbins are excellent. All of the 60 plates featured in the Peterson guide are new; no plates from earlier editions are included. The Peterson illustrations are artistically pleasing and beautifully depict the subtle differences among species. Some of the Robbins pictures, in our copy at least, tend to have a slight pinkish cast. Overall, with few exceptions, the Peterson plates are superior. (Our minor criticisms include the color of the dabbling ducks on page 51 and the color of the magpie on page 209: both are somewhat subdued; the male winter goldfinch is not quite soft enough; and subtle inaccuracies in the color of one or two of the fall warblers are apparent.) Peterson's illustrations are more valuable for novice birders because of the presence of arrows that emphasize key field marks for quick identification (the "Peterson System"). On the other hand, Robbins places species' lengths in convenient locations on the color plates below species names. This information is included in the Peterson book, but only in the species description on the facing page.

The format of the new Peterson book is more similar to Robbins' field guide than were the earlier editions of Peterson's books. Now both authors present species descriptions on pages facing the color plate of the species. Both books show flying and perching individuals of birds of prey and waterfowl. Both also employ range maps of species' distributions. The Peterson maps located in the back of the book provide more information and are more easily understood because state boundaries are indicated and some written comments are superimposed on the maps. The maps in Robbins' guide are more conveniently located with the species accounts on the page facing the species' illustration.

The final criteria for comparison are quality and quantity of information provided in the texts. One highlight of Peterson's work is the chapter on how to identify birds. This chapter is a great asset to beginning birders and to all of those who try to identify birds by color alone. The Peterson book is certainly the more up-to-date of the two (Robbins' book was copyrighted in 1966). Current data are of great importance when considering distributional and ecological matters. Both books have species accounts that include food preference, voice, status, and profiles of bird families. Robbins provides nest and egg descriptions, data lacking in the Peterson book. On the other hand, Peterson includes better descriptions of habitat preferences, a valuable aid in identification. Peterson also assists beginners by listing similar species in most accounts. Finally, Peterson's guide has the additional value of illustrating hybrid species, birds accidentally found in the eastern U. S., and exotics that have escaped from captivity or been introduced locally, now being found sporadically within the range covered by this book.

If you can spare \$10.00, we enthusiastically recommend that you invest in Peterson's new book to supplement other field guides you have. If, however, your funds limit you to possess only one field guide, Robbins' book is an excellent and convenient reference.



# THE 1980 BREEDING SEASON

by **Bruce Harris**

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Except for a few counties like Deuel that received adequate rainfall, the summer was very dry in most areas of the state. Drought conditions may have affected bird distribution but no reporters mentioned particular problems.

Interesting records this season include the first sighting ever in South Dakota of the Louisiana Heron and the first documented nestings of the Hooded Merganser and Canyon Wren. Particularly rare state birds reported below include Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds and a Red-shouldered Hawk. Sharp-shinned Hawks nested in Custer Co., one of the few breeding records for any part of the state. Many other fine records are in bold face in the following list.

The use of data compiled by Ester Serr and Dan Bjerke for *American Birds* is gratefully acknowledged.

## Reporters for the Breeding Season

Doug Backlund	DB	R. Kovarik	RK
Jocie Baker	JB	Doug Kreger	DK
Les Baylor	LB	Walter Larson	WL
Dan Bjerke	DLB	Bill Lemons	BL
Sue Conner	SC	G. C. Rogge	GCR
Less Flake	LF	Dorothy C. Rosche	DCR
Willis Hall	WH	Richard C. Rosche	RCR
J. A. Hagen	JAH	George Ross	GRS
R. Hanson	RH	W. A. Schultz	WAS
Bruce Harris	BKH	Ron C. Spomer	RCS
June H. Harter	JHH	Galen L. Steffen	GLS
Jim Herrig	JH	Gary Stava	GS
Nelda J. Holden	NJH	Sam J. Waldstein	SJW
Kenneth Husmann	KH	Linda L. Waters	LLW
Mike Homoya	MH	Nat R. Whitney	NRW
Dorris Knecht	DK		

Common Loon--Reported from Sand Lake NWR and also Deuel, Custer, and Codington Co. from 9 June through 9 August; in Deuel Co. from 19 August through 30 August (GS).

Horned Grebe--15 June, Roberts Co., 3 (BKH). 23 July, Marshall Co., 20 young (LLW).

Eared Grebe--11 July, Deuel Co. (BKH).

White Pelican--14 August, Codington Co., Grass Lake active nesting colony since 1962 but colony apparently unknown to SD birders. First reported to BKH on 10 August by W. Foss (GF&P) when 20 downy young were observed on an island in the marsh. BKH estimated 600 adults in the area on 14 August. Other records: 15 June, Marshall Co., Pyas Lake, 325 nests and 566 young (BKH, KH). 25 June, Day Co., S. Waubay Lake, 245 nests, 375 young (LLW). Active colony on N. Drywood, Roberts Co., not checked (BKH, KH).

Double-crested Cormorant--15 June, Marshall Co., Pyas Lake, 209 nests with potential 1483 young (BKH, KH). 25 June, Day Co., S. Waubay Lake, 540 nests, 1050 young (LLW). Active colony on N. Drywood Lake, not checked (BKH, KH).

Great Blue Heron--15 June, Marshall Co., 4 tree nests on pelican-cormorant island (BKH, KH). 16 nests in Deuel Co. during June (GS). 45 adults, Stanley Co., Farm Island (DB). Lawrence Co., colony of 80 north of Spearfish (DLB, GGR).

Green Heron--22 June, Codington Co., nest 10 feet up in an ash in a tree nursery (JH). Also reported from Gregory, Hughes, and Yankton Co.

- Louisiana Heron--28 June, Roberts Co., Peever Slough (BKH, GS) see December 1980 *Bird Notes* for details; first record for state.
- Cattle Egret--9 June, Sand Lake NWR, 30 in nesting colony (WAS). 12 June, Codington Co., 8 (BKH).
- Snowy Egret--9 June, Sand Lake NWR, 4 in nesting colony (WAS). 14 August, Day Co., 1 (DB).
- Great Egret--9 June, Sand Lake NWR, 4 in nesting colony (WAS). 10 August, Roberts Co. (DB). "Many observations" on goose survey flight in Day, Marshall, and Roberts Co. with flocks of 6-10 in 4 areas (WL). Also observed Deuel Co. (BKH).
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron--1 June, Sand Lake NWR (WAS).
- Little Blue Heron--9 June, Sand Lake NWR, 3 in nesting colony (WAS). 12 June, Sand Lake NWR, 1 (WAS).
- Black-crowned Night Heron--28 June, Roberts Co., Peever Slough, 50 nests estimated (BKH, GS). Active colony on Goose Lake, Codington Co., not checked (BKH).
- White-faced Ibis--9 June, Sand Lake NWR, 1 in nesting colony (WAS).
- Mallard--1 May, Deuel Co., flushed hen from tree nest 12 feet up (BKH).
- Pintail--1 July, Codington Co., 100 adults, most males, in same "Loafing Pond" (BKH).
- Green-winged Teal--reports from Roberts, Deuel, and Brookings Co.
- Wood Duck--nesting in Hughes, Gregory, and Deuel Co. Brookings Co., 15 nests in 28 boxes put out by SDSU students (LF).
- Ring-necked Duck--7 June, Gregory Co., 1 male (GLS).
- Lesser Scaup--23 June, Marshall Co., brood with hen (LLW). 15 June, Day Co., Waubay Lake, hen flushed from nest with 13 eggs, 14 males on adjacent mainland (BKH).
- Hooded Merganser--Brookings Co., nest with eggs in box put out for Wood Duck by SDSU students; this record is the first for a nest in South Dakota; see an upcoming report in *General Notes*. 23 June, Sand Lake NWR, 1 (SJW).
- Turkey Vulture--13 June, Codington Co. (JH). Also a belated report from JW of 3 birds during August 1979 at Sica Hollow, Roberts Co. These reports and other in the east river area during recent years strongly suggest nesting in the vicinity.
- Goshawk--18 June, Pennington Co. (RCR, DJR). 4 June, Custer Co. (JAH, RH).
- Cooper's Hawk--9 June, Roberts Co., immature mobbed by small birds (BKH).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk--1 June, Custer Co., nest with 2 young (JAH, RH), one of the few nests ever reported from South Dakota. 19 July, Hughes Co., 1 (RCS).
- Red-shouldered Hawk--3 June, Fall River Co., (RCR). This observation is outstanding in being a rare bird for the state and also a far-west record; rare bird form submitted to checklist committee.
- Swainson's Hawk--15 June, Roberts Co., long expected nesting in county confirmed at N. Drywood Lake (BKH, KH, first located by KH and SD0U members).
- Ferruginous Hawk--reports from Harding, Fall River, Pennington, Dewey, and Hand Co.
- Golden Eagle--16 March, Custer Co., early nesting (JB). Nesting also Fall River and Pennington Co.
- Prairie Falcon--nesting in Fall River and Custer Co. Reports also from Harding and Butte Co.
- Peregrine Falcon--12 July, Charles Mix Co., immature (RCS).
- Ruffed Grouse--17 June, Pennington Co. (RCR, DJR).
- Virginia Rail--8 July, Deuel Co., adult with 9 young (DK).
- Piping Plover--7 through 28 June, Clay Co., 2 nests (BL fide WH). 5 July, Walworth Co. (WH).
- Woodcock--20 May, Brookings Co., nest with 4 eggs (NJH).
- Common Snipe--Winnowing male, LaCreek NWR (RCR, DJR). Also winnowing males in Brookings, Roberts, Deuel, and Grant Co.
- Upland Sandpiper--14 May, Deuel Co., earliest nesting on record (BKH). 29 July, LaCreek NWR, counted 67 birds (RCR, DJR).
- Marbled Godwit--1 June, Deuel Co., 10 (BKH). Nesting, Hyde Co. (JHH).
- Ring-billed Gull--15 June, Day Co., Waubay Lake, 100 young, 500 adults (BKH, KH). None in the nearby pelican colony, as in past years. Roberts Co., no nesting at Drywood Lake (BKH, KH).

- Forster's Tern--28 June, Roberts Co., Peever Slough, at least 6 nests with eggs and young with 19 adults in area (BKH, GS). Apparently no nesting at Pyas, Drywood, or Waubay Lake colonies, as in past years (BKH, KH).
- Least Tern--Reported from 3 areas on the Missouri River in the SE, with up to 8 birds in one colony in Clay Co. (WH).
- Black Tern--5 July, Walworth Co., estimated 800 birds (WH).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo--Nesting Gregory and Lawrence Co. Reports from Butte, Lawrence (N, JH), Pennington, Charles Mix, Stanley, and Yankton Co. More reports than normal.
- Short-eared Owl--No reports!
- Calliope Hummingbird--23 July, Rapid City (LB). One of the few sightings from South Dakota.
- Rufous Hummingbird--30 July, Rapid City, 4 feeding in Gilia flowers (LB). Seldom reported from the state.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird--Reports from Moody, Hughes, Roberts, and Gregory Co. Reporters should keep in mind that we have no definite nest record for this species in South Dakota.
- Lewis' Woodpecker--Lawrence Co., 3 pair with 11 young (DLB).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker--Nesting in Brookings and Roberts Co. Adult banded in Newton Park (GCR).
- Northern Three-toed Woodpecker--30 June, Meade Co., Black Fox Campground (MH).
- Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker--6 July, Custer Co., Mt. Collidge (MH).
- Eastern Phoebe--Reports from Roberts, Hutchinson, Stanley, Yankton, and Gregory Co.
- Say's Phoebe--Reports from Butte, Jackson, Hutchinson, Pennington, Stanley, and Fall River Co.
- Least Flycatcher--17 June, Hughes Co. (NJH). 17 July, Roberts Co. (BKH). Seldom observed in NE during recent years.
- Dusky Flycatcher--4 June, Pennington Co., 20 birds observed in the Mystic-Rochford area. The species also observed in Lawrence Co. (RCR).
- Horned Lark--9 April, Day Co., bird on nest (KH). Nesting also in Harding Co. (BR).
- Violet-green Swallow--Nesting in Rapid City area during summer (DHK).
- Purple Martin--Gregory Co., banded 170 young, estimated 65 pairs with 240 broods (GLS).
- Gray Jay--Reports from Custer and Lawrence Co.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch--16 June, Custer Co., nest and young (NRW). This record is one of few nests found for this common Black Hills species. 22 July, Gregory Co. (GLS) one of few summer records outside of Black Hills.
- Brown Creeper--13 June, Rapid City, two broods (RK fide NRW). First state nesting record came only 2 years ago in the Black Hills.
- Short-billed Marsh Wren--29 July, LaCreek NWR (RCR). Quite common in NE this year.
- Canyon Wren--20 June, Black Hills, nest on garage rafter, feeding young (SC fide NRW). First nesting record for the state, long overdue!
- Mockingbird--23 June through 22 July, Codington Co. (JH).
- Sage Thrasher--28 July, Fall River Co. (RCR).
- Eastern Bluebird--Nesting in Hutchinson Co. (RCS). Reports also from Grant, Yankton, and Brookings Co.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet--Reported from three areas in the Black Hills.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet--4 June, Pennington Co., 20 singing males in the Mystic-Rochford area (RCR).
- Loggerhead Shrike--Reports in NE only from Codington and Deuel Co., probably nesting.
- Yellow-throated Vireo--Reported only from Roberts Co. (BKH).
- Warbling Vireo--Nesting in Brookings and Day Co. (NJH, KH).
- Yellow-breasted Chat--Lawrence Co., 1 pair nesting (DLB). Records also from Harding, Stanley, Custer, and Hughes Co.
- Common Yellowthroat--Clay Co., nesting (BL fide WH).
- American Redstart--Hughes Co., common on Farm Island (N, JH).

(continued on back cover)

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- Bobolink--18 June. Custer Co., pair on territory. Stockade Lake (RCR), rather high elevation for this species and not common in the Hills.
- Brown-headed Cowbird--18 June. Custer, Co., Stockade Lake (RCR).
- Blue Grosbeak--More records than usual from Yankton. Clay, Sanborn, Gregory, Pennington, Hutchinson, and Stanley Co.
- Lazuli Bunting--Lawrence Co., 3 pair nesting (DLB). Reported also from Fall River Co.
- Dickcissel--18 June. Custer Co., 2 males (RCR, DJR), considered rare in the Hills. Common in NE this season. Definitely up in Miner Co. (NJH).
- Cassin's Finch--3 June. Pennington Co., Hill City, singing male (RCR), rarely reported during the breeding season.
- Pine Siskin--Nesting in Brookings, Roberts, and Deuel Co. (BKH).
- Red Crossbill--1 May, Brookings Co. (DB). Codington Co., feeding young (JH). Good evidence of breeding in NE this season but still no nest in recent years.
- Lark Bunting--Deuel Co., 2 observations but probably wandering birds or nonbreeders.
- Lark Sparrow--19 May, Sanborn Co., nesting (BR).
- Field Sparrow--16 June. Meade Co. (NJH). Also Deuel and Yankton Co. None in Roberts Co.
- Song Sparrow--16 June. Meade Co. (NJH). Nesting in Day Co. (KH).

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