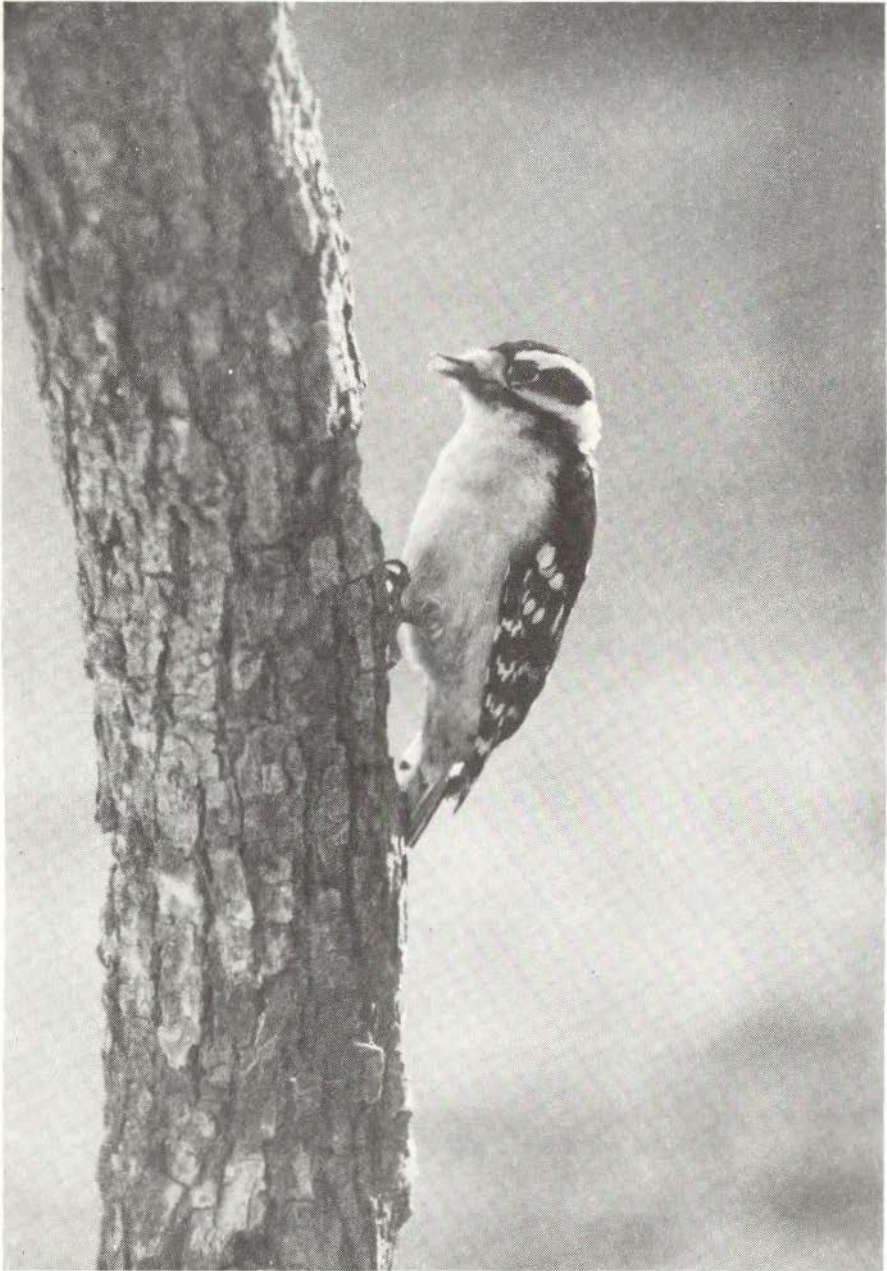


# *South Dakota Bird Notes*

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*Downy Woodpecker*

*Photo: Ron Spomer*

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IN THIS ISSUE

President's Page.....43  
 An Analysis of the Avifauna of an Isolated Ponderosa Pine Forest in Eastern Meade Co., South Dakota, Dan Tallman....44  
 General Notes--Kentucky Warbler in Lake County, Cinnamon Teal near Sioux Falls, Bird Banding Report 1982, Grosbeak Quandary, Herons, Egrets, and Ibis Nesting at Lake Preston, Pygmy Nuthatches Nesting in the Southern Hills, Late Date for Turkey Vulture in Spink County, Warbling Vireo in El Salvador and a 1982 Banding Report.50  
 Correction.....55  
 Book Reviews, Dan Tallman.....56  
 The 1983 Spring Season, Bruce Harris .....57

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

### Spring Meeting

The SDOU held its spring meeting at Pierre on 20-22 May 1983. I think the gathering was one of the best spring meetings ever held. Nearly 100 people registered. A hearty "thank you" to our hosts, Rex Riis and the other members of The Missouri Breaks Audubon Society, who organized and planned many field trips to a variety of interesting habitats. We saw many good birds and had pleasant interactions with fellow birders. We appreciated the Friday night program on back-yard birding, presented by Wally Larson, and the Saturday night presentation on Trumpeter Swans by Harold Burgess.

The Board of Directors met on Friday evening. As of 20 May 1983, the SDOU has 255 members. Dan Tallman, editor of *Bird Notes*, presented a proposal that we computerize some of our publication efforts. Specifically, he suggested that a computer be used to set type for *Bird Notes*, to maintain the SDOU mailing list, and to record *The Birds of South Dakota* in a computer file. All of these activities can be done with a net savings to our organization. The Board approved Dan's proposal with enthusiasm and appreciation. The SDOU joined the computer age with the June 1983 issue of *Bird Notes*.

The Board approved a recommendation to establish the Alfred Hinds Memorial Award. The grant is to be made annually to high school students, undergraduates, graduate students, or others who have made significant contributions to South Dakota ornithology. The memorial award will be administered by a committee appointed by the SDOU president.

This next year will be a busy one. Three or 4 workshop meetings are anticipated for the Checklist Committee, which is updating *The Birds of South Dakota*. The Spring 1984 meeting will be in Aberdeen and the Fall 1983 gathering will be held on 7-9 October 1983 in Madison. Bob Buckman is organizing events in Madison. Why not make plans now to attend?



# An Analysis of the Avifauna of an Isolated Ponderosa Pine Forest in Eastern Meade County, South Dakota.

by Dan A. Tallman, Charlann Suel, and Robert Brown  
Northern State College  
Aberdeen 57401

## Abstract

From 14 until 27 June 1983, Tallman, 2 graduate students, Suel and Brown, and 4 Northern State College undergraduates studied an isolated pine and aspen forest about 7 mi SSE White Owl, Meade Co., South Dakota. This paper discusses the 55 species of birds seen during the expedition. Eight of these records are of species normally thought to be restricted to the Black Hills or Slim Buttes regions of South Dakota. Possible reasons for these occurrences and for absences of other species from the area are discussed.

## Introduction

In 1980 Nat Whitney told Tallman of the possible existence of an isolated pine forest about 70 mi east of the Black Hills. In Whitney's opinion, the birds of the area had never been surveyed and such a survey would undoubtedly lead to unexpected distributional records. Inspired by the discussion, Tallman led, three years later, an expedition of Northern State College students into this isolated forest to conduct a faunal and floral survey.

## Acknowledgements

Foremost we wish to acknowledge the enthusiasm and help of the undergraduates who accompanied us on this expedition: John Hazelton, Tim Murray, Randy Pudwill, and Wayne Sommers. Dr. Nat Whitney and Mr. Louis Frieberg of Rapid City arranged with Mr. and Mrs. Loye Burditt for our camping on his land. Finally, we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Speers, for allowing us to study their forests and for their gracious sharing of knowledge and valuable time.

## The Study Area

Our camp was located about 70 mi E Sturgis and 6 mi NW of the confluence of the Belle Fourche and Cheyenne Rivers in Meade Co., South Dakota. We pitched tents at the top of

the Belle Fourche River Breaks near the head of one of Badland Creek's tributaries. The exact location was at the center of section 11, T6 N, R14 E, as shown on the NE corner of the Dalzell NW, SD, U.S. Geological Survey map.

The camp, at about 2700 ft above sea level, looked over steep cliff faces and draws that led to Badlands Creek and eventually to the Belle Fourche River (at about 2200 ft). Along the upper ridges of the canyons and cliffs grew a sparse ring of Ponderosa Pine forest (see Fig. 1), which, at lower elevations, quickly gave way to cedar on the hillsides and cottonwood in the river bottoms. In the upper reaches of steep east/west canyons, several pockets of aspen were also discovered. The major aspen grove we found, located about 1 mi N camp, contained over 100 aspens, the taller trees averaging 40 ft. The forest floor was sparsely vegetated, as are most heavily grazed pine woods. The camp



Figure 1. A pine-lined canyon near White Owl, Meade Co., South Dakota. A photograph of an overview of the same canyon appears on page 55.

itself lay upon shortgrass prairie, across which the tops of the Ponderosa Pine emerged in long lines from the hidden canyons below. This prairie was not virgin, having been grazed, broken, planted to millet, and put back into range. But, for at least one year prior to our study, the prairie had been neither grazed nor broken. Species comprising the highest relative cover and density were Stipa comata (Needle-and-thread Grass), Agropyron smithii (Western Wheat Grass), Festuca octoflora (fescue-grass), and a host of warm season grasses that were yet to flower. Other species with high frequencies included Carex filifolia (thread-leaved sedge), C. eleocharis (nerveless sedge), Androsace occidentalis (primrose), Plantago purshii (plantain), and Lepidium densiflorum (pepperwort).

### Methods and Materials

From 14 until 27 June 1983, daily hikes were taken from the main camp (see Figure 1). Three mist nets were opened almost continually, day and night, in locations in the forested areas. Table 3 summarizes birds banded during our study.

Upland prairie plants were sampled on an east-facing slope in the vicinity of camp. In total, 4 randomly selected square meters and one 50 meter line transect were surveyed. Brown and Suel (1983, unpublished project paper, Northern State College) calculated the relative cover, the density and the frequency of the plant species. Their results are summarized in the description of the study area.

### The Birds

Table 1 summarizes the birds we observed for which we lack breeding data. Those species for which we do have breeding evidence are listed in Table 2.

Table 1. Birds observed for which we lack breeding data. Because of behavior (such as singing or paired birds) species presumed to be holding territories are marked with an asterisk (\*).

Great Blue Heron	*Red-breasted Nuthatch
Canada Goose	*Rock Wren
Mallard	*Eastern Bluebird
Blue-winged Teal	*Swainson's Thrush
Northern Harrier	American Robin
*Cooper's Hawk	Brown Thrasher
*Golden Eagle	Sprague's Pipit
American Kestrel	Loggerhead Shrike
Merlin	*Black-and-White Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	*Black-headed Grosbeak
American Coot	*Blue Grosbeak
Upland Sandpiper	Lark Bunting
Mourning Dove	*Grasshopper Sparrow
Great Horned Owl	*Red-winged Blackbird
*Common Poorwill	Common Grackle
Downy Woodpecker	Brown-headed Cowbird
Hairy Woodpecker	Red Crossbill
Western Kingbird	American Goldfinch
Eastern Kingbird	Spotted Towhee
*Say's Phoebe	
American Crow	

Table 2. Birds for which we have breeding evidence.

Species	type of evidence
Turkey Vulture	possible nest found
Red-tailed Hawk	nest found
Killdeer	young banded
Long-eared Owl	pair with 1 young
Saw-whet Owl	juvenile banded
Common Nighthawk	adult feigned injury
Northern Flicker	hybrid nest found
Horned Lark	flightless young found
Rough-winged Swallow	nest found
Barn Swallow	nest found
Black-billed Magpie	young found

Black-capped Chickadee	nest found
Mountain Bluebird	nest found
Chipping Sparrow	juvenile banded
Lark Sparrow	many nests found
Western Meadowlark	nest found

Table 3. Birds netted at the study site.

Species	number banded	number released unbanded	total
Black-capped Chickadee	2	2	4
Chipping Sparrow	3	3	6
Horned Lark	1	0	1
Lark Sparrow	11	2	13
Blue Grosbeak	1	0	1
Say's Phoebe	1	0	1
Killdeer	3	0	3
Saw-whet Owl	1	0	1
Mourning Dove	1	1	2
American Goldfinch	0	5	5

#### DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

Two factors that apparently contribute to the existence of an isolated pine forest in eastern Meade Co. are the region's elevation, said to be the highest between the Black Hills and the Appalachians (Speers, pers. comm.), and the fact that here the sandy Fox Hills Formation breaks forth, leaving ideal soil for pine growth.

The region has been visited by other scientists but the only biologist whom I know to have published material on the area is Holden (*Dakota Visions*, Center for Western Studies, Sioux Falls 1982). But he made only passing mention of the area and was vague about its exact location.

One of our primary research questions concerned the possibility that the forest serves as a refugium for montane forest bird species such as those known from the Black Hills. The answer to this question is affirmative. As seen in Table 4, of the 55 bird species observed during this study, 47 (86%) are expected inhabitants of prairies, prairie riparian regions, or other specialized West River



habitats. The remaining eight species (14%) are not expected to be encountered in western South Dakota outside the Black Hills. In addition, one mammal species that would only be expected in the Black Hills, a Boreal Redback Vole, was found within the study area.

Table 4. A habitat classification for the 55 bird species observed on the NSC White Owl Expedition.

Prairie	Prairie Riparian	Black Hills
Turkey Vulture	Red-tailed Hawk	Cooper's Hawk
N. Harrier	Mourning Dove	Saw-whet Owl
Golden Eagle	Long-eared Owl	Common Poorwill
Kestrel	Great Horned Owl	Red-br. Nuthatch
Merlin	Downy Woodpecker	Mountain Bluebird
Pheasant	Hairy Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush
Upland Sandpiper	Northern Flicker	Black-&-White Warbler
Common Nighthawk	American Crow	Red Crossbill
E. Kingbird	B.-c. Chickadee	
W. Kingbird	E. Bluebird	<u>Other habitats:</u>
Say's Phoebe	American Robin	G. B. Heron
Horned Lark	Brown Thrasher	Canada Goose
Black-b. Magpie	Black-h. Grosbeak	Mallard
Rock Wren	Blue Grosbeak	B.-wing Teal
Sprague's Pipit	Rufous-sided Towhee	American Coot
Loggerhead Shrike	Chipping Sparrow	R.-w. Swallow
Lark Bunting	Lark Sparrow	Barn Swallow
Grasshopper Sp.	Common Grackle	R.w. Blackbird
W. Meadowlark	American Goldfinch	
Brown-h. Cowbird		

Despite this Black Hills element of the local avifauna, many species common to the mountains were not observed in the White Owl forests. These species included Ruffed Grouse, White-throated Swift, either three-toed woodpecker, any small flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Gray Jay, Pinyon Jay, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper (said to occur by Speers), both kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Western Tanager, and White-winged Junco. If these pines were once continuous with the forests of the Black Hills, perhaps during or just after the last period of glaciation, why did we find but a scattering of

Hills species? The answer may well lie in the recent ecological history of the region. According to Speers, in the 1920's and 1930's, the now forested hillsides were practically bare due to a combination of prairie fires and domestic logging. Indeed, our study revealed that most of the trees in the area were of a fairly uniform age, about 60 years old. Since the decline of fire and logging, the forests have regenerated from large "seed" pines, one of which we measured to be over 1 m in diameter. Therefore, although the presence of the trees and the vole indicate a Black Hills connection, Hills birds presently occupying the forest probably fortuitously recolonized it in the past half century.

Another possible reason for the paucity of Black Hills birds was revealed by the most common birds of the forest being Lark Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, and American Goldfinches. These species, not usually associated with heavy forest habitat, are more indicative of forest edge. Although appearing thick from a distance, the White Owl forests really provided only a thin ring of trees around the uppermost strata of the Belle Fourche breaks. From within, the trees presented a more parklike aspect than the deep forest (and its associated birdlife) characteristic of the Black Hills.

#### GENERAL NOTES

KENTUCKY WARBLER IN LAKE COUNTY.--On the evening of 15 May 1983, I saw a Kentucky Warbler feeding around East Hall on the Dakota State College campus. The bird was quite tame. I could often approach within 10 feet. I easily noted the bird's black cap, yellow eye ring, and black ear patch. Whitney et al. in *The Birds of South Dakota* list only one other spring record for this species--one seen by Rose in Pierre on 18 May 1974.--Robert Buckman, Madison 57042.

CINNAMON TEAL NEAR SIOUX FALLS.--On 9 April 1983 at Grass Lake (12 mi W Sioux Falls and 3 mi N Highway 16) I discovered a pair of Cinnamon Teal. They were in the shallow water across the road from Grass Lake proper. One of the ducks was an adult-plumaged male, the other a brown female. Because of the relaxed, attentive manner of these two birds, they appeared to be a pair. No other teals (Blue-winged or Green-winged) were present near the Cinnamons.

Cinnamon Teal are normally found farther west, where they are fairly common and where they nest. They are not often seen this far east.--John Giegling, Sioux Falls 57104.

BIRD BANDING REPORT 1982.--In 1982 I banded 62 species and 1319 individual birds. After the following list of the birds that I banded, I have included reports on some of this year's banding recoveries; I note with interest that Tallman (SDBN 35:21), banding in Aberdeen, also reported two foreign Pine Siskin recoveries from Kansas.

Killdeer	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	8	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	6	Blackpoll Warbler	3
Hairy Woodpecker	6	Ovenbird	6
Downy Woodpecker	11	Northern Waterthrush	1
Eastern Kingbird	1	Mourning Warbler	5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Common Yellowthroat	5
"Traill's" Flycatcher	2	Canada Warbler	1
Least Flycatcher	9	American Redstart	5
Barn Swallow	13	Orchard Oriole	3
Purple Martin	12	Baltimore Oriole	9
Blue Jay	1	Common Grackle	10
Black-capped Chickadee	42	Brown-headed Cowbird	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11
Brown Creeper	2	Purple Finch	8
House Wren	9	Common Redpoll	199
Gray Catbird	4	Pine Siskin	49
Brown Thrash	1	American Goldfinch	145
American Robin	14	Slate-colored Junco	546
Swainson's Thrush	8	Oregon Junco	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Tree Sparrow	40
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Chipping Sparrow	20
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Solitary Vireo	1	Field Sparrow	1
Warbling Vireo	2	Harris' Sparrow	22
Black-and-white Warbler	3	White-crowned Sparrow	3
Tennessee Warbler	28	White-throated Sparrow	7
Nashville Warbler	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	7
Northern Parula	1	Song Sparrow	2
Yellow Warbler	2		
Magnolia Warbler	2		
Myrtle Warbler	2		

Some unusual local returns:

- #120-78525 Black-capped Chickadee  
banded 12-03-71 returned 03-26-82
- #1370-61028 Black-capped Chickadee  
banded 11-04-75 returned 03-10-82
- #1370-61070 Black-capped Chickadee  
banded 12-11-75 returned 04-27-82
- #832-98707 Hairy Woodpecker  
banded 04-14-65 returned 02-22-82
- #1510-51179 Slate-colored Junco  
banded 12-05-79 returned 02-28-82
- #1510-51011 Chipping Sparrow  
banded 05-03-79 returned 04-21-82
- #1440-55793 Chipping Sparrow  
banded 09-02-79 returned 04-30-82

Foreign Recaptures:

- #1590-19483 Pine Siskin banded 12-31-81 near Leloup KS  
retrapped 05-05-82 at Brookings SD
- #1510-51865 Pine Siskin banded 03-22-81 at Brookings SD  
retrapped 04-13-82 at Hays KS
- #1490-56219 American Goldfinch banded 02-21-81 near  
Stonewall KS retrapped 05-13-82 at Brookings SD

--Nelda Holden, Brookings 57006.

GROSBEAK QUANDARY.--During the winter without fail for over 40 years in the Black Hills, I have enjoyed viewing flocks of 20 to 40 Evening Grosbeaks at one time. In short order, they often emptied our 2 large feeders of sunflower seeds. But during the 1982/83 winter, I did not have a single grosbeak. In Sturgis I know of dozens of bird-feeders but not one person reported seeing this species. The Christmas Bird Count in Rapid City listed only a single Evening Grosbeak. At our feeders, 20 to 50 goldfinches and siskins replaced the grosbeaks. Yet my friends and I wonder what caused them to disappear from the Hills. Did the grosbeak populations suffer some sort of cyclic population decline or did they spend the winter elsewhere?--Arthur W. Piehl, Sturgis 57785.

HERONS, EGRETS, AND IBIS NESTING AT LAKE PRESTON.--On 19 June 1983, my wife Lois, Ken Husmann, and I spent an afternoon outing to locate nesting egrets. We searched the 6 square miles of marsh and slough at the east end of Lake Preston, Kingsbury Co. On the road to the marsh, we discovered a female Redhead with about a dozen young. Beyond

the road, several dozen other ducks swam and, on 3 mounds at the edge of the slough, 6 egrets loafed.

Convinced we had discovered a nesting colony, Ken and I walked northwest into the marsh. Ken found a Marsh Wren nest 30 yards to my right. An oval mass of gray grass woven among a dozen bent tips of new growth, the nest showed a thumb's width entrance concealed in its side. The nest was empty but a second Marsh Wren nest contained 5 tiny brown eggs. As a White-faced Ibis flew overhead, we came upon our first heron nest. A few inches off the water, 3 light blue eggs were on a bed of old rushes. Then we were among nests so frequent that 6 at a time could be seen with up to 6 eggs each. Most seemed to be Black-crowned Night-Heron nests. Perhaps 5% of all eggs had hatched. An occasional nestling was still wet from having just cast off the shell. Most young birds were gray-skinned with gray fuzz. A lesser number were lighter-skinned with white down. All had prominent bills. Five smaller and distinctly blue eggs were in a nest so low that it was wet. Later we concluded that this nest belonged to the White-faced Ibis. Two Little Blue Herons circled in alarm above us. Ken identified 5 especially large whitish nestlings as being Great Egrets, of which we saw 6 or 8 on the wing. We saw no nest that appeared to be left over from previous seasons.

We may have seen 200 each of Black-crowned Night-Herons and Cattle Egrets, 15 Snowy Egrets, 6 Great Egrets, 2 Little Blue Herons, and 1 White-faced Ibis. We saw perhaps 35 nests in all but we were only on the edge of the colony, the rushes being too thick to allow patient observation from a distance. We hope to return with a blind to enable closer viewing of the herons' nesting behavior. All told, our outing was exciting, rewarding, and unique.--Darrell and Lois Wells, Brookings 57006.

PYGMY NUTHATCHES NESTING IN THE SOUTHERN HILLS.--From 24 March to 29 May 1983, I made 4 trips to the north rim of Sheps Canyon, Fall River Co. I suspected that at this location Pygmy Nuthatches that I had seen beginning a nest hole on 24 March were actually going to raise a family. On 14 April 1 bird was throwing out chips from inside the cavity. The nest hole, about 12 feet from the ground and 4 feet from the broken top of the tree, was about 1 inch in diameter in the south side of a very rotten pine. On 2 May I saw 1 bird perched at the entrance on the trunk--the nuthatch flew to a branch and gave an agitated "di! di!" response to a call from another bird 200 yards away before flying off in that direction.

My hopes of finding young were diminished when I arrived on 29 May; for more than an hour no birds were heard or seen around the nest tree. Then a Pygmy Nuthatch flew from the hole. In 15 minutes an adult returned with a 3/4 inch, orange larva that it fed to a hungry head at the nest hole. This feeding activity was repeated 5 times in the next 2 hours. The young were able to fly (3 left the nest, 2 returned quickly) and their plumage was similar to that of the adults.

I also found Pygmy Nuthatches entering and exiting nest holes on Battle Mountain and in the Argyle Burn, but no feeding was seen at those sites. All the nest trees were located on or near the crests of ridges.--Richard A. Peterson, Hot Springs 57747.

LATE DATE FOR TURKEY VULTURE IN SPINK COUNTY.--While driving south along Highway 281 about 10 miles north of Redfield on 14 June 1983, my field ecology class and I clearly observed a Turkey Vulture. The vulture was flying about 20 ft from the ground and about 100 yards from the road. Its red head was clearly visible.

This species is thought to be an East River migrant: indeed the bird we saw was flying steadily due north. However, this observation is almost a month later than the latest date recorded for the species in Whitney et. al's *The Birds of South Dakota*.--Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

WARBLING VIREO IN EL SALVADOR AND A 1982 BANDING REPORT.--We banded a Warbling Vireo (#0860-49415) in Newton Hills State Park, South Dakota, on 3 August 1981. According to information received from the Banding Office, this bird was recovered 6 months later, 9 February 1982, in El Salvador, Central America. Recovery was in San Salvador Elsa by Concepcion Morales Vides, la Liberstad, San Salvador.

During 1982 we banded 189 birds of 45 species (see list below). Highlights of the year included banding a White-eyed Vireo in Newton Hills State Park on 20 May 1983. *The Birds of South Dakota* lists only 4 previous sightings of this species in the state. A Blue Jay (#1063-67149) that we banded in Sioux Falls on 24 September 1972 was recovered by D. Rogers in Sioux Falls on 30 August 1982. This interval between banding and recovery, 119 months, was the longest in our banding experience.

Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Yellow Warbler	2
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Myrtle Warbler	2
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2	American Redstart	10
Hybrid Flicker	1	Ovenbird	1
"Traill's" Flycatcher	4	Common Yellowthroat	2
Least Flycatcher	4	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
Black-capped Chickadee	10	Northern Cardinal	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
House Wren	2	Black-headed Grosbeak	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Indigo Bunting	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Song Sparrow	21
Swainson's Thrush	7	Lincoln's Sparrow	9
Wood Thrush	1	Swamp Sparrow	2
American Robin	15	White-throated Sparrow	1
Gray Catbird	10	Harris' Sparrow	1
Brown Thrasher	3	Common Grackle	12
European Starling	3	Brown-headed Cowbird	1
White-eyed Vireo	1	Slate-colored Junco	3
Bell's Vireo	4	Orchard Oriole	7
Warbling Vireo	10	Baltimore Oriole	4
Red-eyed Vireo	1	American Goldfinch	4
Tennessee Warbler	8	House Sparrow	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1		

--Charles and Gladyce Rogge, Sioux Falls 57105

CORRECTION: The date of the Arctic Snowy Owl observation in the note by Tallman in the last issue (SDBN 35:27-28) should have been 31 March 1983.



## BOOK REVIEWS

By Dan A. Tallman  
Northern State College  
Aberdeen 57401

Dakota Visions: A County Approach by David J. Holden. 1982, The Center for Western Studies, Augustana College, Sioux Falls. 392 pp. Softcover, \$13.95.

This volume, by SDOU member Dave Holden, is a pleasure yet difficult to review because the book primarily embodies the environmental ethics of its author. Holden's philosophy seems to be a cross between Christianity (God is mentioned 5 times in the 2-page introduction) and a heightened environmental awareness (wherein people are an inextricable part of a cycling universe). The result, presented as a series of short vignettes, makes for very entertaining reading and results successfully, I think, in a feeling for at least one man's South Dakota. I recommend a place for this work on the bookshelves of Dakotan naturalists.

One of my favorite chapters in the book was contributed by another SDOU member, Dilwyn Rogers, who writes on Lakota uses of native plants. I was disappointed, however, not to be trusted with recipes or identification keys. Other high points include discourses on the fate of East River antelope, pheasants, and Cretaceous seas. This book is especially entertaining due to Dave Holden's wry sense of humor, evident throughout his thought-provoking treatise.

In his introduction, Holden writes of his county descriptions: "Obviously, flattery would have been easiest, but we all know that flattery is cowardly. . . constructive criticism [is] best." With this philosophy in mind, I feel compelled to mention my disappointment in several aspects of the book. Dr. Holden holds a wealth of data about South Dakota natural science. He introduced us Tallmans to our new-found passion of fossil hunting. But relatively little precise information is shared in these treatments of state counties. We are told of wilderness ethics but we must ourselves find the wilderness. For example, from his map of Brown Co. the uninitiated could never find The Nature Conservancy's Clovis Prairie--the plot is depicted on the wrong side of the James River. Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge isn't even shown. Again, this time on the Meade Co. map, a traveler looking for Speer's Ranch and shark's teeth, as listed in an appendix of Natural Heritage sites, could never find this fascinating region from the text. What I am



driving at is that my appreciation of South Dakota would have been greatly enhanced if Dr. Holden gave us a bit more of a guidebook rather than a conservation sermon.

The book is divided into several sections (Biological and Geological Reflections, Energy, Ecology and Conservation, Dakota Pioneers, Indian Heritage, and Dakota Images), containing chapters, uneven in quality but usually tending towards being first-rate, covering South Dakota's counties. One has the impression that some counties could have easily been omitted. But most are both entertaining and informative. However, I was disappointed in Holden's treatment of Native Americans, whom I believe he treats naively as "children of the environment." To write that Indians "drowned their sorrow in alcohol" indicates a lack of appreciation for a truly difficult social problem; to be charitable, perhaps Dr. Holden was only trying to be poetic. But, poetic or not, a book on Dakota images should not ignore Wounded Knee, either in the past or present. Finally, this text also largely ignores the touchy issue of the state's water politics, certainly a premier environmental issue.

## THE 1983 SPRING SEASON

by Bruce Harris  
Box 605, Clear Lake 57226

Despite the season's being generally cold and wet, with snows in Perkins Co. up to 10 May, some waterfowl came in very early due to a late February warm spell. However, the weather turned cold, wet, and windy (sometimes up to 50 mph) in April and May, delaying the migration for at least 10 days. Finally, at the end of May, we enjoyed a warming trend. In the following account, noteworthy species and dates are underlined.

Reporters cited in this season's report are: Leon J. Anderson (LJA), Jocelyn L. Baker (JLB), R. Baker (RB), Adam Carr (AC), Pete Carrells (PC), Bruce C. Coonrod (BCC), Robert H. Edens (RHE), Kenneth Graupman (KG), Willis Hall (WH), Bruce K. Harris (BKH), June Harter (JH), Gertrude Hinds (GH), Augie Hoeger (AH), Nelda J. Holden (NJH), Kenneth H. Husmann (KHH), J. Jensen (JJ), Tim Kessler (TK), Donna Klapperick (DK), John W. Koerner (JWK), Dennis L. Lengkeek (DLL), James D. McLaird (JDM), Michael M. Melius (MMM), Ernest Miller (EM), Richard A. Peterson (RAP), Michael J. Rabenberg (MJR), Robert G. Rogers (RGR), Rex Riis

(RR), Charles Rogge (CR), Gladys Rogge (GR), John Ronestad (JR), Richard C. Rosche (RCR), Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS), Mark Skadsen (MS), Harvey O. Smith (HOS), Eileen Spevak (ES), Gary J. Stava (GJS), Galen L. Steffen (GLS), Dan A. Tallman (DAT), Erika J. Tallman (EJT), Charles A. Taylor (CAT), Spencer Vaa (SV), Sam J. Waldstein (SJW), Lois E. Wells (LEW), Darrell Wells (DW), Thane Wells (TW), Juli E. Wilcox (JEW), Nat R. Whitney (NRW).

COMMON LOON--7 June, Day Co., 2, 1 in "immature" plumage (BKH, KHH). Also records from Day, Fall River, Brown, Lake, and Yankton Co.

HORNED GREBE--Reported from Yankton, Hutchinson, Davison, Roberts, and Deuel Co.

RED-NECKED GREBE--6 May, Waubay NWR, 2 nesting pairs (MJR).

EARED GREBE--17 April, Jackson Co., 150 (KG). 17 April, Meade Co., 17 (JLB).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN--28 May, Marshall Co., colony with 780 nests at Piyas Lake. Roberts Co., colony with 500 nests at Drywood Lake (BKH, KHH, DRS, MS). 6 June, Day Co., 686 nests at Waubay Lake colony (BKH, KHH, MJR, SB). All colonies checked had more nests than in 1982.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT--6 June, Day Co., 572 nests at Waubay Lake colony (BKH, KHH, MJR, SB). 28 May, Marshall Co., colony at Piyas Lake with 602 nests 28 May, Roberts Co., Drywood Lake colony with 242 nests (BKH, KHH, DRS, MS). All colonies checked had more nests than in 1982.

LEAST BITTERN--16 May, Sand Lake (SJW).

GREAT BLUE HERON--Deuel Co., colony with at least 8 nests. 28 May, Marshall Co., 6 nests at Piyas Lake, including 1 on the ground among pelican and cormorant nests on an island (KHH, BKH, DRS, MS).

GREAT EGRET--15 April, Deuel Co., early (TW). Reports also from Brookings, Brown, Roberts, Hutchinson, Day, and Bon Homme Co.

SNOWY EGRET--Day Co., Rush Lake, at least 5 pairs, 2 seen on nests with eggs, details later (KHH, BKH). More than usual reported from Kingsbury, Minnehaha, Hutchinson, and Day Co.

LITTLE BLUE HERON --8 May and 27 May, Kingsbury Co., where species believed to have nested in 1982 (LEW, OW). Reported also in Brown Co. but with no date (PC).

CATTLE EGRET--1 May, Deuel Co. (BKH). Reports also from Kingsbury, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Hughes, and Grant Co. Large Whitewood Lake colony apparently moved. Day Co., at least 6 pairs nesting with 2-3 eggs, some young hatched.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON--7 June, Day Co., 50-75 nests with eggs and young at Rush Lake colony (BKH, KHH).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON --3 May, Brookings Co. (LEW, OW).

WHITE-FACED IBIS --28 April through 2 May, Hutchinson Co. (LJA).

TUNDRA SWAN--21 March, Sand Lake (SJW).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE-- 1 March, Gregory Co., earliest ever (DLL).

SNOW GOOSE--27 February, Moody Co. (LEW). 28 February, Turner Co. (LJA). 3

- March, Deuel Co., 3000 (BKH). 2 March, Sand Lake, 5000 (SJW). 27 March, Brookings Co. (LEW).
- BRANT --12 April, Sand Lake, Pacific race seen closely, photo (SJW).
- WOOD DUCK--5 May, Day Co., 35 males (KHH). 4 April, Gregory Co. (GLS).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL--3 March, Aurora Co., early (RGR, JDM).
- CINNAMON TEAL--Reported from Meade, Bon Homme, Fall River, and Stanley Co. More than usual.
- GADWALL--28 February, Turner Co. (LJA).
- AMERICAN WIGEON--28 February, Turner Co. (LJA).
- CANVASBACK--28 February, Turner Co. (LJA).
- REDHEAD--28 February, Turner Co. (LJA).
- RING-NECKED DUCK--28 February, Turner Co. (LJA).
- LESSER SCAUP--28 February, Turner Co. (LJA).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER --31 May and 1 June, Waubay NWR, female or immature, latest ever and 1 of the few spring dates for the state (MJR).
- BUFFLEHEAD--2 March, Clay Co. (WH). 19 May, Waubay NWR.
- HOODED MERGANSER--Reports from Grant, Clay, Roberts, Turner, and Brown Co.
- COMMON MERGANSER--16 May, Pennington Co., female (KG).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER--19 May, Yankton Co., very late (WH). Reports also from Day, Turner, and Corson Co.
- RUDOY DUCK--19 March, Hutchinson Co., early (LJA).
- TURKEY VULTURE--East River reports from Deuel (2), Turner, Brown, and Brookings Co.
- NORTHERN HARRIER--25 February, Marshall Co., very early date (HOS).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK--All season, Fall River Co. (RAP).
- COOPER'S HAWK--15 May, Marshall Co., nesting (BKH, DRS). Observed during nesting season on 19 April, Fall River Co. (RAP); 17 May, Kingsbury Co. (CR, GR); 6 May, Gregory Co. (GLS); 24 April, Roberts Co. (BKH).
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK--8 and 12 April, Fall River Co., where species may nest (RAP).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK--3 May, Hughes Co. (BCC). 30 April, Gregory Co. (GLS). Also outside its normal range in Jackson Co. (KG) and Corson Co. (WH).
- SWAINSON'S HAWK-- 3 April, Sand Lake, very early (SJW).
- FERRUGINOUS HAWK--Day Co., several observations suggest possible range extension or wandering nonbreeders. 3 and 7 June, Enemy Swim Lake (KHH, BKH). 11 May, Marshall Co. (MJR).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK--22 April, Haakon Co. (BKH, KHH). 24 April, Meade Co. (JLB). Both dates late.
- GOLDEN EAGLE--March, Custer Co., nesting (MMM). Reported also from Meade, Pennington, Turner, Jones, and Lyman Co.
- PEREGRINE FALCON --18 March, Brookings Co., male (KHH).
- PRAIRIE FALCON--30 April, Waubay NWR, late date (JWK). 22 March, Sand Lake (SJW). Reports also from Tuner, Jackson, Fall River, and Meade Co.
- RUFFED GROUSE--18-28 May, Black Hills, 4 drumming, photos (JLB).
- SAGE GROUSE--15 May, Butte Co., 5 on lek (JLB).
- AMERICAN COOT-- 14 March, Beadle Co., very early (CR, GR).
- SANDHILL CRANE--9 May, Jackson Co., 15, late date (KG). 16 April, Sand

- Lake, 8 flocks (TK).
- WHOOPIING CRANE --18 April, Perkins Co., 5 (GH). Perkins Co., 2 south of Bison reported by USFWS but no date. One reported to USFWS in Brown Co. but no date.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER--22 May, Hand Co., 13 (KHH). Reports also from Brown and Yankton Co.
- KILLDEER-- 3 March, Deuel Co., Waubay NWR, and Gregory Co. are earliest ever. 4 March, Moody Co. (LEW).
- AMERICAN AVOCET--19 April and 7 May, Jackson Co., 5-20 (KG). 19 April, Sandborn Co., 35 (JEW). 27 April, Yankton Co., 43 (WH). Roberts Co., 7 (ORS). Bennett Co., 13 (MMM). Meade Co. (JLB).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW--Perkins Co., 3 nesting pairs (GH). Also observed in Jackson and Lawrence Co.
- HUOSONIAN GOOWIT--Reported from Sanborn, Brant, Brown, Kingsbury (8 by LEW), Hutchinson, Lincoln, Clay (8 by WH), and Perkins Co.
- MARbled GOOWIT--21 May, Sully Co., 8 (NRW). 17 April, Beadle Co., 16 (RGR).
- RED KNOT --15 May, Yankton Co., photo, only third state record (WH).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER--very good flight, up to 300 in flocks, reported by many observers.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER--10 April, Hanson Co., early (RGR, JDM).
- DUNLIN--Reported by many observers.
- STILT SANDPIPER--Good numbers in Jackson, Fall River, Roberts, Deuel, Moody, Brown, and Lincoln Co.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER --13 May, Grant Co., 3 with calls noted (ORS). 15 May, Brown Co. (DAT).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER--7 May, Sanborn Co., 75 (RGR). 11 May, Clay Co., 380 (WH).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK--Brookings Co., 2 singing males (NJH). Roberts Co., Hartford Beach, where species has been noted for a dozen years, at least 13 singing males (ORS). 23 April, Waubay NWR (JWK).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE--24 May, Moody Co., nest with 4 eggs (BKH).
- FRANKLIN'S GULL--1-3 March, Yankton Co., 6, photos (WH). 6 March, Stanley Co. (BCC). Jackson Co., 5 sightings (KG). No colonies located East River.
- RING-BILLED GULL-- 3 March, Deuel Co., very early (BKH). 6 June, Day Co., 1266 nests at colony on Waubay Lake, almost the same as last year (BKH, KHH, MJR); many chicks died at this colony (15-20%); we concluded the cause to be very cold, wet May weather. 28 May, Roberts Co., Drywood Lake colony with only 22 nests, all with eggs (BKH, ORS, MS).
- CALIFORNIA GULL --6 June, Day Co., Waubay Lake, 24 nests, only a few chicks hatched, and over 50 adults at colony that has been increasing in size for at least 3 years (BKH, KHH, MJR). 28 May, Marshall Co., Piyas Lake 2 adults (BKH, ORS).
- GLAUCOUS GULL --22 April, Pierre, late date (BKH, KHH, OW). 12 April, Hyde Co., 4 (JH).
- CASPIAN TERN --17 May, Stanley Co. (BCC).
- FORSTER'S TERN--21 April, Yankton Co. (WH). 22 April, Sand Lake (RHE).

BLACK TERN--21 May, Sully Co., 50-100 (NRW). 20 May, Fall River Co. (RAP, RCR).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO--15 May, Yankton Co. (WH).

GREAT HORNED OWL--9 April, Brookings Co., possible Arctic race (NJH, SV); see also correction note, this issue.

SNOWY OWL--4 April, Sand Lake (RHE).

BURROWING OWL--12 April, Douglas Co. (WH).

SHORT-EARED OWL--23 April, 8 in 27 mi of Dewey, Ziebach, and Stanley Co. (WH).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL--19 March, Fall River Co., close view (RAP).

COMMON POORWILL--7 May, Fall River Co. (RAP).

WHIP-POOR-WILL--26 April, Turner Co., very early (LJA). 3 May, Hutchinson Co. (LJA).

CHIMNEY SWIFT--30 April, Roberts Co., very early (BKH). Gregory Co., (GLS).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER--Meade Co., 10 birds all season (EM).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER--25 May, Minnehaha Co., nesting (?) (LJA).

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER--6-7 March, Fall River Co. (RAP).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER--19 May, Brookings Co. (CAT). 28 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER--4 June, Brown Co., 1 banded (OAT).

LEAST FLYCATCHER--7 June, Day Co., calling (BKH).

PURPLE MARTIN--11 April, Gregory Co., the latest arrival in 10 years (GLS).

TREE SWALLOW--14 April, Yankton Co., 12, very early (JEW). 15 April, Yankton Co. (LJA).

BARN SWALLOW--19 April, Jackson Co. (KG). 21 April, Kingsbury Co. (BKH).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER --25 March, Wind Cave NP (RAP).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE--31 March, Sanborn Co., 2, also same location in 1982 (RGR).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH--17 May, Brookings Co., banded, very late (NJH).

PYGMY NUTHATCH--24 March to 21 May, Fall River Co., pair nesting (RAP), see General Notes, this issue.

BROWN CREEPER--4 May, Brookings Co. (SV). 8 May, Day Co. (KHH).

WINTER WREN-- 17 May, Fall River Co. (RAP). 7 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 17 May, Hyde Co. (JH).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET--19 May, Sanborn Co. (RGR). 14 May, Brookings Co. (CAT).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD-- 1 March, Fall River Co., earliest ever (MJR). 4 March, Deuel Co., 3 (BKH).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD--18 February, Pennington Co., early (DK fide NRW). 1 April, Hyde Co. (JJ fide JH).

VEERY-- 2 May, Brookings Co. (SV). 22 May, Jackson Co., banded (KG). 20 May, Stanley Co. (CR, GR).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH-- 1 May, Brown Co., banded, earliest ever (OAT). 14 banded during season by DAT.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH-- 7 June, Brown Co., banded (DAT).

HERMIT THRUSH--2 May, Gregory Co., (GLS). 4 May, Brookings Co. (SV). 7

May, Brown Co., banded (DAT). All these dates are late; a very good flight this season.

WOOD THRUSH--26 May, Lincoln Co. (CR, GR). 7 May, Brookings Co. (RB).

VARIED THRUSH--12 May, Hyde Co., close view by JR (fide JH).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD--20 April, Stanley Co. (BCC). 31 May, Hutchinson Co. (WH).

SAGE THRASHER--20 May, Fall River Co., 2 (RAP, RCR).

NORTHERN SHRIKE--21 March, Fall River Co., late date (RAP).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE--11 March, Sanborn Co., very early (RGR).

BELL'S VIREO--29 May, Pennington Co. (JLB).

SOLITARY VIREO--17 May, Minnehaha Co., 13 (AH).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO--12 May, Deuel Co., early date (BKH).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER --15 May, Minnehaha Co., close view (CR, GR).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER--17 May, Minnehaha Co., 2 (AH).

NORTHERN PARULA --10 May, Brookings Co. (CAT).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER-- 10 May, Hughes Co., very early (BCC).

CAPE MAY WARBLER--11 May, Sand Lake (RHE).

AUDUBON'S WARBLER--13 May, Brown Co. (DAT, EJT). 21 May, Stanley Co. (KG, RR). Seldom reported East River.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER-- 3 May, Hughes Co., very early (AC). 7 May, Hutchinson Co. (LJA). 7 May, Roberts Co. (DRS).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER-- 7 May, Roberts Co., very early (DRS). 21 May, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

PALM WARBLER--9 May, Gregory Co. (GLS). Very good flight in NE.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER--21 May, Hughes Co. (KHH).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER--6 May, Yankton Co. (JEW). 6 May, Brookings Co. (CAT). Both dates early.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER-- 25 April, Gregory Co., very early (GLS). 37 banded by DAT at Aberdeen during season.

KENTUCKY WARBLER --See General Notes, this issue.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER --19 May, Brookings Co., details forthcoming (CAT).

MOURNING WARBLER--18 and 23 May, Gregory Co., well west of normal range (GLS).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER--29 May and 4 June, Brown Co., banded (DAT). 29 May, Brookings Co. (KHH). East of normal range.

CANADA WARBLER-- 6 May, Brookings Co., earliest ever (CAT). 12 May, Brookings Co. (RB).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT--9 June, Brown Co., banded (DAT).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK--10-15 May, Codington Co., 8 birds in yard during bad weather (ES).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK--10-15 May, Codington Co., 1 male with Rose-breasted Grosbeaks cited above (ES). 15 May, Brown Co. (MMM).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW--13 April, Brookings Co., 31 banded in snow storm (NJH). 3 April, Perkins Co., heavy flight (GH). Very late migration this season.

VESPER SPARROW--25 April, Custer Co., 60 in flock (MMM).

LARK SPARROW--8 May, Brown Co., 1 (DAT).

BAIRD'S SPARROW--21 May, Stanley Co., singing bird apparently on territory, far south of breeding range but possibly a migrant (BKH, RGR, and many others).

FOX SPARROW--One of the best flights ever recorded in South Dakota: at least 11, 7 banded, in Brookings during season (NJH); 8 in flock, Yankton Co (WH); at least 11 in Deuel Co., with 4-5 at feeders at a time (BKH); at least 15 in 1 day at Hartford Beach State Park, Roberts Co. (DRS); 12 banded during season, Brown Co. (DAT).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW--22 May, Jackson Co., late (KG). 5D banded by DAT during season at Aberdeen.

HARRIS' SPARROW--20 May, Fall River Co. (RAP). GLS reports very poor Zonotrichia flight in Gregory Co.

DARK-EYED JUNCO-- 21 May, latest ever (GLS, BCC, LJA). 15 May, Roberts Co., 100+ (DK). 12 April, Aberdeen, "thousands", 238 banded during April (DAT). 13 April, Brookings Co., 74 banded in 5 hr snow storm (NJH).

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR --19 April, Fall River Co., 60 males (RAP, RCR). 20 April, Fall River Co., 6 (RAP, RCR). Formerly considered rare even as a migrant, but good field work by RCR indicates the species regularly moves through SW counties.

BOBOLINK--1 May, Deuel Co., very early (GJS).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK--3 March, Deuel Co. (BKH). 3 March, Clark Co. (HOS).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD--1 March, Hutchinson Co., 25 (LJA). 10 May, Brookings Co. (SV).

HOUSE FINCH --20 May, Fall River Co., 2 at Edgemont where species may be nesting (RAP, RCR).

PINE SISKIN--None reported East River (where few were reported last winter).

SDOU ANNUAL MEETING, MADISON  
7-9 OCTOBER 1983

MOTEL INFORMATION

	<i>single</i>	<i>double</i>	<i>double/2 beds</i>
Pierson Motor Lodge West Hwy 34 256-3536	17.00	22.00	28.00
Lake Park Motel West Hwy 34 256-3524	17.00	22.00	28.00

CAMPING INFORMATION

Lake Herman State Park is located about 3 miles southwest of Madison. Fees are \$4-6 per night.

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*SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION ANNUAL MEETING*  
*7-9 October 1983*

*Location: C. Ruth Habeger Science Center, Room 135, Campus  
of Dakota State College, North Egan Ave., Madison, SD*

*Friday, 7 October*

*7:00-9:30 PM Informal get-together and registration*  
*8:00 PM Slides by Bob Whyte, presented by Les Baylor*

*Saturday, 8 October*

*8:00-9:00 AM Registration*  
*9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Paper sessions, Annual Business  
Meeting, and Board of Directors Meeting*  
*Evening Banquet and Program*

*Sunday, 9 October*

*Field trips and committee meetings*

*CALL FOR PAPERS and LODGING INFORMATION*

*Anyone who wishes to give a paper at the Paper Session,  
please contact Robert Buckman, Dakota State College,  
Madison SD 57042, giving title, time, and audio-visual  
equipment needed by 4 October 1983. Committees needing  
time to meet on Sunday should also contact Dr. Buckman by 4  
October. SEE PAGE 63 FOR MOTEL AND CAMPING INFORMATION.*

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