

# *South Dakota Bird Notes*

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*Eastern Screech-owl*

*Photo: Jocelyn L. Baker*

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IN THIS ISSUE

*President's Page*.....67  
*General Notes--Two Banding Recoveries; Breeding American Avocets in Northwestern Butte County; Great Crested Flycatchers in Pennington County; Worm-eating Warbler at Huron*.....68  
*Book Review, Erika J. Tallman*.....70  
*Three Superb Bird Books, Dan A. Tallman*.....72  
*The 1983 Breeding Season, Bruce Harris*.....75

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The fall meeting is now over, and we are back home for the winter. The Madison meeting was an excellent one. Outstanding was Dan Tallman's report on the results of his expedition to the confluence of the Belle Fourche and Cheyenne Rivers in eastern Meade County, an area that had never before been investigated ornithologically. Other interesting papers were Les Baylor's report on his Breeding-Bird Survey route at Volunteer, Meade County;



Nelda Holden's report on 25 years of Christmas Counts at Brookings; and 2 papers by Ken Husmann--"Backyard Bird Habitats" and "Bluebird Trails." I found the program intellectually stimulating, and was glad that I attended.

We also enjoyed Les Baylor's Friday night presentation of bird slides taken by the late Bob Whyte of Pierre. Over the years, Bob took many fine photographs. He willed to the SDOU a collection of nearly 1000 slides for continuing education and enjoyment. Gil Blankespoor and Bob Buckman have formed a committee to review these slides and arrange them into useful units. We are indebted to Mr. Whyte for his bequest.

I feel deeply honored to have been elected president by the Board of Directors, but I also feel a sense of humility. I was first elected president in 1958 and was re-elected in 1959. Thus I served during the 9th and 10th years of our existence. Now, in our 35th year, I find myself reviewing our accomplishments during the intervening period.

First, we have continued to regularly publish *Bird Notes* with many excellent articles documenting bird life in South Dakota. Second, we produced 2 books on birds in the state--*Birds of the Black Hills* by O. S. Pettingill, Jr. and myself, published by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; and *The Birds of South Dakota*, by the members of our checklist committee. Also, 2 of the species accounts in *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*, by Arthur Cleveland Bent, were my discussion of the White-winged Junco

and Herbert Krause's of the McCown's Longspur. In these and in many other ways, I think that we are continuing to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the SDOU founders.

Finally, I want to express our appreciation to our past leaders--especially to those no longer living. Among the directors and officers in early 1959, during my first presidential term, were Secretary/Treasurer L. J. Moriarty, retiring Editor J. Scott Findley, membership chairman H. F. Chapman, and Directors Ruth Habeger, J. O. Johnson, Lowry Elliott, C. P. Crutchett, Mary Hyde, and Herbert Krause. They were all close friends. My own life is richer because I had the privilege of knowing and working with them. I thought it very fitting that we met this fall in the C. Ruth Habeger Science Center in Madison. Ruth was an SDOU director for several years and the president from 1960 to 1962.

#### GENERAL NOTES

TWO BANDING RECOVERIES.--The two most interesting banding recoveries I obtained in 1983 were a Common Grackle and a House Wren. The grackle was banded (# 1023-04474) in Aberdeen on 28 September 1982 and was recovered 4 months later, on 26 January 1983 at Bonham TX, approximately 800 mi SSE Aberdeen. I banded (# 1600-26792) the House Wren on 23 August 1981 and recaptured it almost two years later, on 13 May 1983. Because of the high mortality rate for small birds such as wrens and because this species is difficult to capture (they often slip through nets), I feel my record is noteworthy. However, the world's record for House Wren longevity is 7 years (cited in *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*, 1980).--Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

BREEDING AMERICAN AVOCETS IN NORTHWESTERN BUTTE COUNTY.--On 25 June 1983, while driving south on the county road from Camp Crook, SD, to U.S. Highway 85, we closely approached 2 adult American Avocets. One flushed and the other remained on the road with 4 tiny chicks that appeared no more than 2 days old. This observation occurred in NW Butte Co. about 3 mi S Harding Co.

Our record may be the first authentication that avocets breed in Butte Co. *The Birds of South Dakota* (1978) provides few records for the species in western South Dakota, with only the indication that avocets are "rare and local West River." Also noteworthy is that the avocets we

saw occurred in apparently atypical habitat. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds*, Part I (1927) suggests that avocets typically nest in small colonies on mud flats or grassy areas very near water. This Butte Co. pair occurred in open grazing land with tall yellow clover as the dominant vegetation. No water resources were evident, but some stock ponds or dugouts must be in the general area to serve the grazing livestock.--L. M. and Mary E. Baylor, Rapid City 57701.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS IN PENNINGTON COUNTY.--On 4 July 1983, we observed 2 Great Crested Flycatchers in a heavily wooded area about 4 mi S and 4 mi E Wall, SD. The Pennington Co. Road between Alternate U.S. 16 and the town of Scenic passes through this wooded area. The flycatchers gathered food intermittently at the edge of the woods and then disappeared into the dense trees. We can only speculate that the flycatchers were collecting food for nestlings.

Since the species list for the 1982 SDOU spring meeting (SDBN 34:56) did not include the Great Crested Flycatcher, this observation may provide a useful addition to the record of birds in eastern Pennington Co. *The Birds of South Dakota* (1978) notes that this species occurs fairly commonly in eastern South Dakota, but only rarely or occasionally does this flycatcher appear in the Badlands or Black Hills.--L. M., Mary E., and Florence L. Baylor, Rapid City 57701.

WORM-EATING WARBLER AT HURON.--On 13 August 1983, about noon, a small bird with strongly marked head stripes caught my attention as it walked about the trunk and lower limbs of a maple tree just outside my north fence. The warbler foraged over the visible area of the tree for several minutes while I studied it in detail; the prominently wide head stripes (dark and white), the head sloping to the rather long, sharp bill, the slightly yellowish breast, and the dark back and wings were all plainly visible. The light was very good, the area shaded, and the view, at about 40 ft with 7x binoculars was unobstructed. This bird was the second Worm-eating Warbler of my life. (The first was banded on Farm Island by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogge on 23 May 1965.) Although this rare warbler was reported twice in the state during the 1982 spring migration (SDBN 34:74), I am not aware of any previous fall records for this species in South Dakota.--J. W. Johnson, Huron 57350.

## BOOK REVIEW

by Erika J. Tallman  
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Scans Key to Birdwatching by Virginia C. Holmgren. Timber Press, 1983. 176 pp. \$12.95.

Beginning birders find the task of species identification frustrating and confusing. Learning to observe accurately and completely and then to match personal observations with descriptions in field guides have caused more than one enthusiast to throw his books and binoculars down in despair. Holmgren's key, based on size and color, was devised to help beginning birders learn how to observe birds and to quickly and easily identify common species. The acronym in the title comes from the 4 main clues the author tells us are essential for species identification: Size, Color, Actions, and Notes. The beginning chapters describe how to observe and what to notice. Size and color are the 2 basic key characters: size (compared to House Sparrow for small, American Robin for medium, and pigeon for large) and color of the back, wings, and tail. Once these determinations are made, the birder locates the appropriate right page margins: for example, "small/yellow" for a goldfinch. Once the basic size and back color are decided, the key becomes more specific, asking for information on the colors and markings of the bird's cap and breast. So, on the small/yellow page, under "cap black, breast yellow," we are confronted with 3 species: American Goldfinch, Wilson's Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. To help us make the correct choice, each species account provides a small black and white sketch, a written description, a list of close look-alikes with mention of the distinguishing features, and a range map. In addition, the rather crude color plates at the end of the key (the Elf Owl is depicted as equal in size to a House Wren) allow for a final verification.

Does this system work? With distinctive common birds that allow themselves to be observed carefully, yes. This system is probably very effective and quick for those hoping to identify the birds coming to their home feeders. However, the success of any system depends on the accuracy of the observation on which the identification is to be made. And accurate observation only comes with practice. Judging size is a particularly difficult task. As an experienced birder, I tried to "key out" some species and

was surprised how my interpretation of size and color differed from the author's. For example, in the key, the Belted Kingfisher and Blue Jay are considered large, not medium-sized; the European Starling is found under medium/green, not medium/black, as might be chosen by someone seeing the species under poor light. A magpie, whose size classification is due to tail length rather than body mass, is listed as very large and therefore included on pages between an Anhinga and Snowy Owl. Because back color is the primary key character, Yellow Warbler appears under small/green. In this case the author also lists small yellow birds with yellow-green backs under the small/yellow category. A South Dakotan with an adult Harris' Sparrow at her feeder would turn to small/brown with black cap and come up with Lapland Longspur (Harris' Sparrow is listed in the account as a close look-alike). I know many novice birders who confuse Brewer's Blackbirds with Grackles despite the great difference in the birds' tail lengths. Yet the accounts of these species do not mention that their blackness and yellow eyes make them rough look-alikes. So, this key is not fool-proof.

Holmgren's book will help beginners gain confidence as they succeed in learning distinctive species, and using the book may make certain identifications quick. But the key will not teach those beginners to understand why certain birds are grouped together. The key characters used in this text are generally not biologically significant so the user will not gradually gain an understanding of avian systematics as one would while struggling with a field guide. But, once one learns to be a good observer and if the bird to be identified has been well seen, I don't think using a field guide is very difficult. The trick is seeing the bird well and interpreting what you see accurately.

One of the greatest limitations of the key is that only 200 species are fully described and pictured in the text. Another 400 are named and briefly mentioned as being "close look-alikes." But some species known to nest in North America are omitted completely. This key will not help students of birds to identify subtly different species such as thrushes (only the Hermit Thrush is fully described), shorebirds, sparrows, fall warblers, and hawks. For example, imagine identifying a reddish-tailed hawk that shows us its tail. Using the key one would turn to the section for very large, brown birds. We then rule out long-legged waders and ducks and turn to hooked-billed hunters. Then we are asked if the cap is plain brown or streaked? How many of us have ever identified a Red-tailed

Hawk by its streaked cap? Worse yet, a quick glance at Peterson's Field Guide shows us that the reddish-tailed hawk with the streakiest crown is actually a Ferruginous Hawk. The key only pictures the Red-tailed Hawk; many others are listed as close look-alikes. Certainly comparison with well illustrated field guides would be a more fruitful way of learning how to identify hawks. Because only 200 species are thoroughly described in the key, for over two-thirds of the species in North America birders will have to consult field guides.

In conclusion, Ms. Holmgren has devised a clever technique for easy identification of distinctive, common birds. Through the use of this book a novice birder probably will learn how to be an accurate, efficient observer. If the birder is a poor judge of size and color or if the bird is a difficult species that is seen only fleetingly, this system probably will not work much better than any other. I doubt that this SCANS key will replace well illustrated field guides.

### THREE SUPERB BIRD BOOKS

Reviews by Dan A. Tallman  
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Breeding Birds of Ontario: Nidology and Distribution. Volume 1: Nonpasserines by George K. Peck and Ross D. James. 1983, Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario. 321 pp. Softbound, CN \$25.00.

A Guide to the Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by Herbert A. Raffaele. 1983, Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., Inc., Reading MA. 255 pp. Softbound, \$13.95.

Birds of Tropical America by Alexander F. Skutch. 1983, University of Texas Press, Austin. 305 pp. Hardbound, \$29.95.

Retired or vacationing South Dakotans tend to travel north in the summer and south for the winter. Here are three books of interest, two for the travellers, and the third for those of us who must travel vicariously.

*Breeding Birds of Ontario* summarizes almost all that is known about the distribution and nesting of the nonpasserines of that province. (A second volume covers the

passerines.) The book has a very handsome layout: any page of the text opens with a range map to the left and a species account to the right. Fine black-and-white illustrations accompany many of the accounts. At the end of the book are a list of plant species mentioned in the text (but without page references), a rather clearly presented literature cited and selected bibliography, and an index to common and scientific bird names (this time with page references). Also at the end are 42 black-and-white, uniformly good photographs of birds and habitats. Despite the beautiful layout, however, 100 Canadian dollars for this text and its companion volume seems a trifle exorbitant for a regional bird book.

My criticisms of this book are relatively minor. I believe the authors had the room in their text to also include seasonal distribution of the birds. No migration dates are included. On another point, part of my wife's dissertation involved studying breeding Solitary Sandpipers in Ontario. We would have been discouraged, before setting out to the province, to have learned that only 1 nest is known from Ontario, although the species "has been observed exhibiting territorial behavior during the breeding season . . . throughout the forested regions of northern Ontario." Despite Peck and James's having researched museum collections, none of the data on our specimens, collected in 1980 and donated to the National Museum, are included in the text. These data include breeding information on swollen gonads, ruptured follicles, and eggs in oviducts. One must conclude that other records such as ours are also omitted. But this criticism also points to the central worth of this book--it collates what is known about the birds of the region and inspires the reader to contribute to our knowledge of Ontario ornithology.

I don't know how many South Dakotans travel to Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, but, once they see Raffaele's field guide, more of our bird watchers will be heading for these islands. This book is primarily an identification guide illustrated by Cindy House and John Wiessinger. Their paintings, most in color (a surprise in light of this book's low price), range from adequate to excellent. Most of the pictures are similar to those of standard field guides, complete with arrows to outstanding field marks. The plates also include several pretty bird portraits. Generally I thought the plates by Wiessinger to be superior, especially his sandpipers and warblers; the fact that he is a medical illustrator came as no surprise to me.

One noteworthy aspect of the text, which generally seems quite complete in matters of identification, nesting, distribution, status, and vernacular names, is the sections on voice. Calls are translated into phonetics and are often also described with little lines, depicting raising or falling pitches. For me, these lines are easier to decipher in the field than are sonograms.

This field guide goes beyond the bounds usually presented in such a text. The book ends with a bird-finding section, complete with maps and written directions. The introductory topics include sections on conservation, field hazards (Schistosomiasis-causing trematodes make contact with fresh water swamps perilous), and island ecology. The ecological questions raised--such as what are the factors that dictate island bird diversity and uniqueness--make this book outstanding and refreshingly different from so many of the newer field guides that cover only bird identification.

Despite its misleading title, *Birds of Tropical America*, the last book to be considered, is quite different from the preceding two. It is not a field guide. Rather, here Alexander Skutch, perhaps the foremost authority on the behavior of the Costa Rican avifauna, reports on some of his studies on nesting habits of Central American birds. The writing style is intended for the lay-person yet covers a wealth of data on breeding birds. The reader should beware of being infected with a desire to visit the American tropics or of being inspired to study the breeding habits of our own South Dakotan birds in a manner similar to Skutch's.

My only criticism of the book is that all of the 34 species covered are nonpasserines. Fully half the birds in the book are either pigeons, trogons, or motmots. Most of these species are certainly unfamiliar and exotic for most of us but a wider representation of tropical birds, including for example antbirds, hummingbirds, or tropical icterids, would have made Skutch's text all the more varied and fascinating.

The book itself is beautifully produced. The style of print is handsome and easy to read. The text is lavishly illustrated with fine black-and-white drawings of all the species covered and also includes interesting photographs, although the latter do vary in quality. This text's price seems reasonable. I may be biased because of my own birding experiences in the tropics, but through this book I found myself transported to the excitement of tropical ornithology. Even those of us with no intention of traveling outside the United States will nonetheless greatly enjoy and be inspired by reading *Birds of Tropical America*.

## THE 1983 BREEDING SEASON

by Bruce Harris  
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Until mid-June, the season was generally cool and wet. July brought hot and dry weather. In the southeast record rainfall resulted in two counties' being declared disaster areas. Although no definite data are available, undoubtedly some nesting birds were flooded out in those counties. A 30% mortality among Ring-billed Gull chicks at Waubay may have been due to cold, wet May conditions.

High points this season include the large Lake Preston nesting colony where ibis, Little Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and all 3 egrets bred. Colonial birds (gulls, pelicans, and cormorants) in the state were generally at higher levels than in previous years. The discovery of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher for the third year in Lincoln Co. is very exciting. Tallman's records for the Black-and-White Warbler, Saw-whet Owl, Swainson's Thrush, Merlin, and other species in a previously unexplored pine forest 70 mi E Sturgis indicate that this area, near White Owl, deserves more attention. On his 5-acre oasis along Enemy Swim Lake, Husmann and I found all 3 species of nesting vireos (we will have details in a later issue). Late July thunderstorms in Brown Co. resulted in standing water in fields, enabling Tallman to observe, on 30 July, 15 species of southward migrating shorebirds.

Observers cited in this season's report were Gilbert Blankespoor (GB); Scott Bates (SB); Robert Buckman (RB); Jocelyn L. Baker (JLB); Bruce Coonrod (BC); Dave Coffin (DC); John Gilman (JG); Kenneth Graupman (KG); Willis Hall (WH); Bruce K. Harris (BKH); June Harter (JH); Gertrice Hinds (GH); Augie Hoeger (AH); David J. Holden (DJH); Nelda J. Holden (NJH); Kenneth H. Husmann (KHH); John Jave (JJ); Karen Kronner (KK); G. Marron (GM); Brian Meyer (BM); Ernest E. Miller (EEM); Marjorie J. Parker (MJP); Richard A. Peterson (RAP); Mike Rabenberg (MR); Rex Riis (RR); Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS); Mark Skadsen (MS); William A. Schultze (WAS); Dan A. Tallman (DAT); Harvey Wittmier (HW); Lois E. Wells (LEW); Darrell Wells (DW); Sam J. Waldstein (SJW); Nat R. Whitney (NRW).

COMMON LOON--All period, Day Co., 3 at Enemy Swim, no evidence of breeding (KHH).

HORNED GREBE--14 June, Harding Co. (GH).

EARED GREBE--Perkins Co., nesting (GH). 26 June and 3 July, Fall River Co. (RAP, MJP). 5 June, Roberts Co. (DRS).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN--28 May, Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, 780 nests, 50% hatched; 28 May, Roberts Co., Drywood Lake, 186 nests, most with full clutches, 40% with young; 18 June, Codington Co., Grass Lake, 317 young plus 95 nests with only 12 with eggs (DRS, MS, BKH). 6 June, Day Co., Waubay NWR, 686 nests, most with eggs (MR, SB). 2 July, Jackson Co., 161 (KG).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT--18 May, Codington Co., Grass Lake, 152 nests, only 10 lacking young; 28 May, Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, 602 nests, 30% hatched; 28 May, Roberts Co., Drywood Lake, 481 nests, most with full clutches, 50% with young (DRS, MS, BKH). 6 June, Day Co., Waubay Lake, 572 nests, 75% with eggs, remainder with young (BKH, KHH).

AMERICAN BITTERN--22 July, Brookings Co., nesting (NJH, DJH).

LEAST BITTERN--14 June, Sand Lake NWR, nest with 2 young (WAS).

GREAT BLUE HERON--28 May, Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, 4 nests in tree on island and 1 nest on the ground among cormorant nests (BKH). Nesting also reported in Brown Co. (near Sand Lake and Stratford) and in Deuel Co.; other colonies in state apparently not checked.

GREAT EGRET--19 June, Kingsbury Co., Lake Preston, 5 adults and 1 nest (KHH, OW). 9 June, Grant Co., 8 (DRS).

SNOWY EGRET--7 June, Day Co., Rush Lake, about 15 pairs (BKH, KHH). 19 June, Kingsbury Co., Lake Preston, about 15 (KHH, OW). 17 July, Kingsbury Co., Lake Preston, about 30 nests, with several adults flushed from them (BKH, OW, LEW, DC). 13 June-19 July, Sand Lake NWR, 1 (WAS).

LITTLE BLUE HERON --19 June, Kingsbury Co., Lake Preston (KHH, OW). 16 July, Kingsbury Co., Lake Preston, 6, including 1 mottled second-year bird (AH); 16 July, same location, 5, but, as in the past 2 years at Whitewood Lake, from whence the Lake Preston colony may have originated, solid nesting evidence, despite presence of juveniles, could not be obtained (BKH, OW, LEW, DC).

TRICLORED HERON --7 June, Day Co., Rush Lake, 1, third state record (BKH).

CATTLE EGRET--27 June, Day Co., Rush Lake, 50 pairs and several nests (KHH). 17 July, Kingsbury Co., Lake Preston, about 100 pairs, many nests observed (BKH, OW, LEW, DC); earlier observations at same location by (KHH, OW, AH). During period, Lake Andes NWR, 2 colonies totalling 65 pairs will be reported on in later issue (JJ). 31 July, Sand Lake NWR, unsuccessful nesting attempt (WAS). 27 July, Day Co., Rush Lake, 50 pairs, several flushed from nests (KHH). Also reported from Bon Homme Co. (KK).

GREEN-BACKED HERON--During period, James River at Watertown, common (BKH). 9 July, Fall River Co., (RAP).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON--Large colonies at Rush Lake, Lake Preston, and, in Lake Co., Milwaukee Slough (BKH, KHH, RB, and others); other colonies not reported.

WHITE-FACED IBIS--7 June-16 July, Sand Lake NWR, where at least 2 pairs reported nesting (WAS, AH, OW, KHH).

SNOW GOOSE--26 July, Waubay NWR, cripple? (MR).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL--27 June, Miner Co., 2 pairs on Breeding Bird Survey (NJH). 14 June, Perkins Co. (GH).

CINNAMON TEAL --16 June, Lake Co., male displaying for assumed female Blue-winged Teal accompanied by Blue-winged male (MW).

NORTHERN SHOVELER--Breeding in Yankton Co. (WH) and Bon homme Co. (KK).

AMERICAN WIGEON--Fall River Co., pair (RAP). Waubay NWR, 3 broods (MR).

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 16 June, Stanley Co., below Oahe Dam, cripple? (RR).

COMMON MERGANSER --14 July, below Oahe Dam, 4 males (BC).

RUDDY DUCK--Reported from Bon Homme Co. (KK).

OSPREY-- 7 June, Yankton Co. (WH).

BALD EAGLE-- 15-18 July, Sand Lake NWR, crippled?, immature (SJW).

NORTHERN HARRIER--26 June, Jackson Co., nest (NRW). 3 Miner Co. Breeding Bird Surveys reported only 1 (NJH).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK--June-28 July, Meade Co., nesting with 3 fledglings (EEM). 29 June, Fall River Co. (RAP).

COOPER'S HAWK--4 June-4 July, Jackson Co., along White River, presumed nesting although nest not located (KG). 17 June, Meade Co., S White Owl, 1 acting territorially (DAT). 7 August, Roberts Co., Sodak Park, 2 fledgling-like birds seemed to be following an adult, but confirming views impossible (adult heard earlier in season) (BKH). May, Roberts Co., nesting at Knight's Coulee (BKH, DRS).

SWAINSON'S HAWK--23 May, Brookings Co., nesting (LEW). Definitely more common than in previous years in many parts of the state.

GOLDEN EAGLE--June, Badlands, nesting (KG). Pennington Co. Breeding Bird Survey, 2 (JLB). June, Meade Co., S White Owl, 1 immature (DAT). Reported also from Custer Co. (MJP) and Fall River Co., 4 (RAP).

MERLIN --18 June, Meade Co., S White Owl, adult male chasing Western Kingbird (DAT). 4 June, Fall River Co. (RAP). These records are evidence that this falcon may occasionally breed out of Harding Co.

PRAIRIE FALCON--Custer State Park, nesting (fide NRW). Also reported Fall River Co. (RAP). None observed in Meade Co., S White Owl, during two weeks in late June (DAT).

RUFFED GROUSE--11 June, near Mt. Rushmore, 2-3 drumming; but none found in Willow Creek area (JLB).

SAGE GROUSE--Fall River Co., adult and 2 young (RAP). Perkins Co., nesting (GH).

GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN--26 July, Day Co. (MR).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE--Last week of July, Brookings Co., singing (NJH, DJH).

VIRGINIA RAIL--26 June, Miner Co., adult and immature (NJH).

SORA--Fall River Co. (RAP).

SANDHILL CRANE--6 June, Jackson Co. (KG).

PIPING PLOVER--Hughes Co., where probably breeds (BC).

AMERICAN AVOCET--7 June (6) and 5 July, Jackson Co. (KG). 18 June, Codington Co., 5 pairs (DRS, MS, BKH).

- GREATER YELLOWLEGS--13 July, Yankton Co. (KK).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW--26 June, Badlands National Park, 8 on Cedar Pass Breeding Bird Survey (NRW). Pennington Co. Breeding Bird Survey, 1 (JLB). During period, Fall River Co., 23 (RAP). 15 July, Perkins Co., adult with 4 young (GH).
- MARbled GODWIT--Reported from Hyde, Roberts, Brown, Jackson, and Marshall Co.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE--1-7 June, Day Co., 8 (BKH). Also reported in Bon Homme Co.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER--Reported in Jackson Co. (KG).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER--5 June, Roberts Co., ca. 300 (DRS). 1 June, Lincoln Co., ca. 300 (BKH). 2 June, Bon Homme Co., 18 (KK).
- COMMON SNIPE--Miner Co., winnowing males (NJH). Also reported Lawrence, Minnehaha, Brookings, and Moody Co.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK--10 June, Bon Homme Co., 4 (KK).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE--Bon Homme Co., brood with 2 young (WH). Bon Homme Co., brood with 4 young (KK). 10 July, Bon Homme Co., 6 adults (KK).
- FRANKLIN'S GULL--Reported from Jackson Co. (KG).
- RING-BILLED GULL--28 May, Roberts Co., Drywood Lake, 22 nests, all with eggs (DRS, MS, BKH). 6 June, Day Co., Waubay Lake, 1266 nests, 75% with full clutch, but estimated 30% mortality among young, perhaps due to very cold, wet weather during previous 3 weeks (SB, BKH, KHH). The Waubay count is similar to the 1982 census.
- CALIFORNIA GULL --Waubay Lake, third year of recorded nesting with increases each year, at least 24 nests, all with eggs, and 55 birds, including 4 young (BKH, KHH, MR). 28 May, Marshall Co., 2 adults on Piyas Lake colony but no breeding evidence (DRS, MS, BKH).
- CASPIAN TERN --8 June, Codington Co., Lake Campeska, 1 (JG, BKH), only 2 other June records for state.
- COMMON TERN--28 May, Drywood Lake, 15 nests, all with eggs (DRS, MS, BKH). 6 June, Waubay Lake, possibly 2 pairs but, unlike previous years, no nests found (BKH).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO--This season more common in many areas of the state.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO--Yankton Co., 4 (WH). 9 July, Brown Co., 2 on NSC campus (DAT).
- COMMON BARN OWL --16 July, Stanley Co., along Missouri River where species has been observed in previous years (GM, BC).
- BURROWING OWL--3 July, Marshall Co., just inside [sic] Roberts Co. line, where local man reports 2 pairs in 1982 and other recent years.
- LONG-EARED OWL--Fall River Co., nesting (RAP). Late June, Meade Co., S White Owl, two adults with young (DAT). 9 June, Yankton Co. (KK).
- SHORT-EARED OWL--Reports from Badlands (6) (NRW), Fall River Co. (RAP), and Pennington Co., 10 (JLB).
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET Owl --20 June, Meade Co., S White Owl, juvenile photographed and banded (DAT).
- COMMON POORWILL--Rapid City, regular (NRW). Late June, Meade Co., S White Owl, at least 3 pairs (DAT).
- CHIMNEY SWIFT--During period, Rapid City, a few overhead (NRW). Fall River Co. (RAP).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER--Wind Cave National Park (RAP).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER-- Brookings Co., possibly 2 pairs nesting, 2 males and females banded in July (NJH).

LEAST FLYCATCHER--4 June, Jackson Co., banded (KG).

EASTERN PHOEBE--Yankton Co., nesting (KK).

WESTERN and EASTERN KINGBIRD--KK reported kingbirds nesting in drain gutters of her house, Eastern on east side and Western on west side!

TREE SWALLOW--Waubay NWR and Enemy Swim Lake, 69 nestlings banded (NJH). Sturgis area, 3 pairs (EEM) and a few nesting in the Black Hills (NRW).

CLIFF SWALLOW--19 June, Grant Co., 183 nests under bridge (DRS).

PINYON JAY--17 July, Fall River Co. (RAP).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH--4 June, Fall River Co., nesting (RAP). Late June, Meade Co., 70 mi E Sturgis (DAT).

PYGMY NUTHATCH --25 June and 17 July, Fall River Co., 4 each in 2 locations (RAP).

BROWN CREEPER --17 July, Fall River Co. (RAP).

ROCK WREN--16 July, Fall River Co. (RAP)

CANYON WREN--3 July, Fall River Co., nesting (RAP).

HOUSE WREN--Waubay NWR, using bluebird houses (KHH).

SEDGE WREN--Quite common in NE (BKH); fairly common in Bon Homme Co. (KK).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER --Newton Hills State Park, pair possibly nesting (GB). This species has been recorded in Lincoln Co. for 3 consecutive years.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD--Waubay NWR, 8 nestlings (3 broods?) banded (NJH, KHH). Also breeding in Brookings, Jackson, Meade, and Hyde Co.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD--Sturgis area, 6 nesting pairs (EEM).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE--Fall River Co. (RAP).

VEERY--Roberts Co., nesting at Sica Hollow and Knight's Coulee (BKH). 6 June, Jackson Co., banded (KG).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH--4 and 9 June, Jackson Co., banded (KG). 1-5 June, Brown Co., banded (DAT). 13 June, Hyde Co. (JH). 17 June, Meade Co., 70 mi E Sturgis, heard twice in pine-forested canyons (DAT).

WOOD THRUSH--30 July, Bon Homme Co. (KK).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD--Yankton Co. (WH).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT--20 July, Brown Co., 1 (DAT). 26 June, Meade Co. (DAT).

CEDAR WAXWING--26 June-13 July, Brookings Co., nesting (BM).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE--5 June (BKH) and 26 June (DRS), Roberts Co.

BELL'S VIREO--Reported from Clay and Jackson Co.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO--Day Co., first confirmed successful nesting in state since early 1940's at Husmanns' Cabin. The nest, much higher than normal for the species, was about 40 ft up in a cottonwood (BKH, KHH).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER--Late June, Meade Co., in pine forests S White Owl, several heard and seen, including pairs, but no evidence of breeding. This location is about the 6th area of South Dakota where the species has been located during the breeding season.

AMERICAN REDSTART--Jackson Co. (KG).

OVENBIRD--First week of June, Roberts Co., singing bird in coulee W Peever (NJH).

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YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT--1 June, Perkins Co. (GH).

NORTHERN CARDINAL--14 June, Grant Co., where species may regularly nest (ORS).

BLUE GROSBEAK--19 June, Fall River Co. (RAP). Miner Co., 5 on 2 Breeding Bird Surveys (NJH). Jackson Co., 3 (KG). 26 June, Badlands National Park, 1 male (NRW). Bon Homme Co. (KK). 22 June, Meade Co., S White Owl, 1 male banded, species common and evidently nesting (DAT).

FIELD SPARROW--Reports from Roberts, Marshall, Brookings, Deuel, and Jackson Co.; also Badlands National Park.

LARK BUNTING--Numbers down in Badlands Breeding Bird Survey (NRW); none on Miner Co. Surveys (NJH); but fairly common in northcentral counties (BKH).

SWAMP SPARROW--Observed in Kingsbury, Deuel, Roberts, and Day Co.

BOBOLINK--Custer Breeding Bird Survey, 10 territorial males (NRW). Meade Co., 1 (EEM). Pennington Co. Breeding Bird Survey, 3 (JLB).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK--6 August, Hyde Co., late nesting (JH).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD--19 June, Pennington Co., nest and young (NRW).

CASSIN'S FINCH --2 July, Fall River Co. (RAP).

RED CROSSBILL--Black Hills, common after several years of relative scarcity, recorded on 19 and 20 stops of 2 Breeding bird Surveys (NRW).

PINE SISKIN--Black Hills, common after several years of relative scarcity.

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