

South Dakota Bird Notes

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Red-tailed Hawk

Photo: Peter Carrels

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings and best wishes for prosperity and good birding in 1984. I'm writing in mid-January and recalling that a month ago we were suffering through extremely cold weather. But by the time this page appears in print, we should be thinking about the May meeting in Aberdeen. The dates will be 18-20 May. Please mark your calendars and make reservations.



The announcement in last December's *Bird Notes* mentioned that Richard Mewaldt and Kim Eckert were tentative speakers. Since both are now confirmed, and since both are friends, I want to tell you more about them.

After a distinguished ornithological career, Dr. Mewaldt recently retired from the faculty of San Jose State College. Years ago he worked briefly in Aberdeen. As a graduate student he investigated the Clark's Nutcracker; the resulting paper appeared in the 1956 *Condor*. In addition to his faculty duties, he has been an active bander and was an early leader in the development of Point Reyes Bird Observatory, a center for studies of bird populations and life histories at Point Reyes National Seashore and the Farallon Islands.

Kim Eckert is a leader in Minnesota ornithology and is the author of *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*. Kim enjoys the distinction of having the largest life list for Minnesota. Many of us knew him when he lived in the Sioux Falls area and we are very happy that he will be back with us. His presentation at the meeting will be "Hawk Identification."

An important part of the spring meeting's agenda will be a general membership meeting to discuss reorganizational suggestions made by Esther Edie at the Board of Directors meeting in Madison. Because of the importance of the proposed changes the board felt a special general meeting was needed to discuss the ideas and formulate a formal proposal to be voted on at the October business meeting. The following items suggested by Esther are those to be considered in May:

1. Since the board has become very large with the addition of past-president directors and since most elected directors are repeatedly re-elected, Esther proposes, beginning in 1987, that a group of only 4 be chosen annually instead of the usual 5.

2. An elected director should serve no more than 2 consecutive terms (6 years total).

3. A former board member may be re-elected only after being off the board for at least 3 years.

4. After leaving office, unless re-elected as a regular board member, the retiring president should serve only 1 year on the board.

5. Officers may be elected from the general membership and need not be serving as directors at the time they are chosen. Such elections should be held at the annual business meeting of the members rather than at the Board meeting.

6. A new, more suitable time is needed for the Board of Directors' spring meeting. (The meeting is usually held at 9 p.m. Saturday).

Please consider these proposals and be ready to discuss them in Aberdeen this May. I look forward to seeing you there!

THE WAUBAY BLUEBIRD TRAIL: FIRST YEAR

by Kenneth H. Husmann
Brookings 57006

In the 1982 fall, after John Koerner became manager of the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, I visited him. During our conversation I spoke of having seen bluebirds on the refuge and of wanting to start a "bluebird trail" in hopes of increasing the bluebird populations. Immediately John took up the idea and suggested that he had some old lumber available and a good man, Roger Waddell, to build the houses. John also told me about a new Fish and Wildlife Service program to use volunteer help on the refuges and asked me if I would be interested, and, of course, I was.

While I was in Arizona that winter, Roger built 52 bluebird houses according to a plan that I found in *The New Handbook of Attracting Birds* by Thomas P. McElroy Jr. I could hardly wait to start putting them up and worried that the bluebirds might get to the Dakotas before I did. I needn't have worried--we had a cold, late spring in northern South Dakota and we could not get posts into the frozen ground until mid-April.

I mounted some houses on wooden fence posts along the main road through the refuge. To decide exactly where to place the boxes, I drew on both my observations of these birds and my reading about them. When Eastern Bluebirds feed, they perch on a fence or dead tree and watch for insects on the ground below. Upon sighting prey the bluebirds fly to the ground, capture the insect, and, before eating, fly back to their perch. Mindful of this behavior, I thought that the nest boxes should be mounted at or near habitats with short or sparse vegetation. I had read that bluebirds like open country with occasional woods, preferably of oak or cedar. Although the Refuge has little cedar, it has plenty of oak. I knew that if I put the houses too close to the trees the House Wrens would use them but if I placed them near water the Tree Swallows would take over. Therefore I tried to place the houses for the maximum advantage for bluebirds. John directed me to put flags on the off-road trails where I wanted posts for houses. When the ground finally thawed, Roger took the tractor with a power post driver and erected wooden posts at each flag.

I thought that the bluebirds would arrive before the others, but the Tree Swallows came first. Luckily, swallows don't start nesting immediately and, when the bluebirds finally arrived, they were able to take the houses they wanted. We discussed the possibility of predation. John mentioned that another refuge manager had found it necessary to place entrance tubes on bluebird houses to prevent raccoons from reaching the birds. Hoping that I wouldn't need them, I decided to try to get along without such devices.

Initially I had difficulty distinguishing between the dry grass nests of bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Usually the bluebird nests are thicker than those of swallows, which always feather-line their nests. Bluebirds practically never use feathers. Of course, once eggs are laid, nests are easily identified because swallow eggs are white and bluebird eggs are blue. Bent says that bluebird eggs can be white but I have never found any. Bluebirds usually lay 5 eggs in their first clutch while Tree Swallows lay 6 or

more.

We had about 8 active bluebird nests when our first predation occurred. I found a torn-up bluebird nest and blue feathers on the ground under the box. Later I found several swallow nests in the same condition. Immediately, Roger made some entrance tubes and John and I put them on the bluebird houses. As we watched, the birds fluttered around the strange-looking boxes. But after some time they entered the box through the tube. Only a couple of days later the predators foiled this new device. John decided to put the boxes on long steel sign posts. Right away we moved some of the boxes and, although that night predation continued on nests supported by the wood posts, nests on the steel posts were not molested. My wife and I moved all of the active bluebird houses. Because moving the houses seemed to stop the predation, John had steel posts driven for all the other houses. Amazingly, the birds put up with all of this disturbance; not one nest was abandoned.

We made many interesting observations during this nesting season. In spite of the many dead trees on the Refuge, we found that the nesting boxes were eagerly sought. Most of the houses were used twice during the season and some three times. We were pleased to have 8 pairs of nesting bluebirds when we began; imagine our surprise when, after all the predation, our frequent monitoring, and box moving, we counted 15 pairs nesting simultaneously for a second hatch. Once, early in the spring, I opened a box to find 4 adult Tree Swallows inside. Another time I found a pair of Tree Swallows and a pair of bluebirds building in the same box; ultimately the bluebirds took over the box. We had one nest in which the female and most of the young were eaten by a predator. The male continued to feed two remaining young. He fledged them, despite the predation, our putting a tube on the box, and our moving the house to a steel post. We found that bluebirds and House Wrens have comparatively few ectoparasites while Tree Swallows are badly infested. When bluebirds fledge, the nest looks hardly used. Tree Swallow nests, in contrast, are usually full of droppings and ectoparasites.

In 1983 our trail had 24 bluebird nestings of which 17 fledged 1 or more young and 59 Tree Swallow nestings with 29 young. We are very optimistic about next year and plan to have a longer trail with more boxes. I feel that, if other people would start trails where bluebirds are known to nest, we could be raising these fine thrushes instead of House Sparrows and starlings. Remember that human activity in part caused the bluebirds to decrease and the sparrows and

starling to increase; a little help from us might make a big difference in the bluebird's recovery.

CREATING NATURAL HABITAT

by Kenneth H. Husmann
Brookings 57006

Many ways exist to enjoy and appreciate nature. Just being aware of the natural world is a pleasure for most people, but being able to call things by name brings plants and animals closer to us. Observing, reading about, and understanding how all the parts of the ecosystem fit together heighten our appreciation and enjoyment.

For me, a great aesthetic achievement has been the creation of a small place acceptable to a growing number of living things. This place is so nearly natural that, to my surprise and delight, plants spring up seeded by birds, squirrels, or the wind. Birds come from hundreds, even thousands, of miles to spend an important part of their lives with me.

My wife and I started to create this place some 30 years ago (although I know it was growing in our minds and hearts long before that). We started with an acre of pasture on the east shore of Enemy Swim Lake. We had 6 trees along the lake edge and, for birds, we saw Horned Larks, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Killdeers, and gulls. Then we fenced the land, built a small cabin, planted a few cottonwood trees, broke a garden, and put up a martin house. At once the bird life increased. We soon had Purple Martins, Barn Swallows, robins, and many other birds. In those days, birds such as Yellow-headed Blackbirds, meadowlarks, and even Marbled Godwits brought their young to feed in the yard. Soon another acre and a half was added and the prairie broken so that trees would grow faster without competition from grass. After leaving the land black for a year, we planted it with trees and shrubs, concentrating on fast-growing, hardy species such as cottonwood, Chinese Elm, Russian Olive, Ponderosa Pine, cedar, spruce, honeysuckle, lilac, and hedgerose. After much labor and care, weeding, and watering, everything grew rapidly and we started having more birds (Orchard and Northern Orioles, Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Mourning Doves, flickers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, House Wrens, catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Blue-winged Teal, Mallards, and occasionally nuthatches,

chickadees, and Brown Creepers). We let the lake shore and the hillside grow up with grass, weeds and trees; Song Sparrows and Yellow Warblers began to nest. Tree Swallows used houses as fast as we could put them up. A few times we had bluebirds, kestrels, Rough-winged Swallows, or Warbling Vireos nest in our bird boxes.

This year the vireos sang everywhere and, with help from Bruce Harris, I finally learned to distinguish their calls. One June day Bruce said, "Ken, did you know that Red-eyed, Warbling, and Yellow-throated Vireos are all singing at once?" With help from Mike Rabenburg from Sisseton, who works at the Waubay Refuge, we spotted a vireo nest about 40 feet high in a cottonwood tree. Bruce determined the nest was a Yellow-throated Vireo's, and later this identification was confirmed by David and Nelda Holden and Darrell and Lois Wells. Apparently this nesting record is the first in 40 years in the state. This discovery was really icing on the cake after half a lifetime of planning and work.

Summing up, the requirements for creating habitat acceptable to a large number of bird species are water and a variety of food at all seasons, protection from the weather and predators, and nesting sites of many kinds at different heights. You need tall trees with an understory of smaller trees and shrubs. You need thickets and open areas. You don't need much lawn.

TWO RECENT FIELD GUIDES

Reviews by Dan A. Tallman
Northern State College
Aberdeen 57401

Field Guide to the Birds of North America by The National Geographic Society. 1983, The National Geographic Society, Washington D.C. Softbound, \$13.95. 464 pp.

Birds of North America by Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Bruun, and Herbert S. Zim. 1983, Golden Press, New York. Softbound, \$7.95. 360 pp.

A few years ago Erika Tallman and I reviewed the new edition of Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds* (SDBN 32:83-84). We were favorably impressed but concluded that for the South Dakotan who could afford only one text, Robbins' *Field Guide* was the best buy. But few birders have just one guide and to augment your collection, two new books

are recently available, a revised edition of the Robbins book and a new guide put out by the National Geographic Society.

The National Geographic book is a spectacular production. All the illustrations have vibrant color on thick, shiny paper. The book itself is about a quarter inch taller and wider than either of its competitors (Robbins and Peterson). Every page of the main text opens to bird paintings on the right with a short text covering field marks, habitat, song, and range map on the left.

At least 14 artists contributed to this guide. As might be expected in a collection of paintings by many people, the pictures do vary in quality. But only the cuckoo plates fall below a highly professional caliber; the others range from good to excellent. Curiously some of the variation occurs within paintings by the same artists. John O'Neill's parrots are superb but his swallows have fat wings. Doug Pratt, who seems to have painted a majority of the plates, presents great corvids, wrens, and vireos but portrays an odd-looking Western Tanager and a few elongated flycatchers with warped tails. One obvious mistake in the book is that Common Loons (painted by Jan Janosik) are shown with brown eyes; they should be bright red. Reddish-brown seems to have printed poorly in this text--the backs of the Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds are wrong as is the Crissal Thrasher's crissum. Other color problems also exist, the worst of which is the lack of any hint of tan around the Swainson Thrush's eye. The Blackpolls are arranged on their plate in such a way that the most common leg color, yellowish, is not shown on the immature birds.

The pictures are beautiful to look at but with birds pointing every which way, I find it hard to compare difficult-to-identify species. A field guide is no place to experiment with perspective. The artistry of the paintings most distracts in the sparrow plates, where the birds are dwarfed in extensive backgrounds. I suspect less background and bigger birds would result in easier identification, which is, after all, the purpose of a field guide.

Do not misunderstand me. I do highly recommend the National Geographic book. Many plumages of birds are illustrated very well and identification advice exists here that is lacking in other guides. I think the fall female "Audubon's" and "Myrtle" Warblers are very well done and I was interested to learn that Brewer's Blackbirds are never rusty on the tertials. When confronted with difficult identifications, you will often find yourself saying, "I wonder what the Geographic book has to say about it."

I have less to say about the Golden field guide. This well known book is extensively revised. The range maps and the text have been completely reset. Unlike the maps of the National Geographic book, those of the Golden guide lack outlines of the states, making ranges somewhat difficult to decipher. A major modification of this revised edition of the Golden Guide is the inclusion of almost every bird known to have occurred in North America. In this respect, it is similar to the Geographic book. I think placing in an appendix all birds known only from the Aleutian Islands would be preferable. For example, the Water and Sprague's Pipits share their page with no less than five extralimital pipit species. As in the above reviewed text, the taxonomy conforms to the newly adopted AOU Checklist, but, unlike the other text, the plates occur more or less in a traditional order.

I have few criticisms of the Robbins text. Some color problems exist. Worst, perhaps, is the plate of western Empidonax flycatchers. The paintings seem crudely done, almost as if Singer, the artist, had not finished his work. The birds have strange splotches of bright yellow and appear much flatter than the other drawings. But on the whole, the paintings are well executed, somewhat stylized (which is good in a field guide), and uniformly positioned (a help when comparing similar species).

For field identification, the Golden Guide has not been surpassed. The book is pocket-sized, reasonably priced, and well illustrated. The Geographic book may contain slightly more information and many birders will be attracted by its handsome artwork. Birders interested in correctly identifying species will want to have copies of Peterson and the National Geographic book at home to consult for difficult birds.

GENERAL NOTES

PINYON JAY AT HURON.--On 28 September 1983 at about 4:15 pm, I heard a familiar loud pecking sound in the bird feeder at our west window. Expecting to see a Blue Jay, I was confused for an instant at seeing a dull uncrested blue bird. I called to Blanche to come and see it but, before she could get to me, the bird flew. We did not see this jay again until the next day when, in our yard, it appeared among many robins, several flickers, a couple of jays, and several unidentified warblers and sparrows. The high bush cranberries and crab apple tree were heavy with fruit and getting full attention from the berry-eating birds. The jay

flew to the feeder. I called Blanche but again the bird flew before she arrived. However, now I had no doubt about this visitor's identity and I well remembered our two sightings of Pinyon Jays north of Huron in 1959 (SDBN 11:35).--J. W. Johnson, Huron 57350.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE AT ABERDEEN.--During the morning of 11 November 1983, a single Townsend's Solitaire ate Mountain Ash berries from our backyard tree. This day was one of the first fall days below freezing. A low from the southwest the day before had brought flurries on top of a couple of inches of snow that had been deposited by a Pacific Northwest low 48 hours earlier. Perhaps coincidentally, on the same morning we also saw our first Bohemian Waxwing of the year and we banded a very late immature White-crowned Sparrow. Although we did not again see the solitaire or waxwing, we did retrap the sparrow the next day.

We were able to observe the solitaire from within 15 feet and so could record all field marks. This species is a sporadic winter visitor to eastern South Dakota; Harris (SDBN 32:12) reported a small influx of this thrush in the northeast during the 1977-1978 winter.--Dan and Erika Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

MISSISSIPPI KITE SIGHTED IN MINNEHAHA COUNTY.--I saw a Mississippi Kite on 12 May 1983 along the Big Sioux River just south of the 12th Street bridge in Sioux Falls. My ornithology students and I were walking along the east side of the river when we saw, across the river, a relatively large, long-winged, long-tailed bird flying over a grove of trees and trying to elude several harassing grackles.

The bird's shape and its swallow-like flying behavior made me think "kite." Unfortunately, although the bird landed on the edge of the grove, we could not make positive identification because we made a mad dash towards our parked vehicle due to a sudden rainfall. The rain continued and we went back to the campus.

I could not return to the area until about 3:00 pm by which time the sky had cleared and visibility was excellent. Walking along the west side of the river towards the spot where the bird had landed, I was surprised to find it still there. After studying the bird carefully from a distance of about 50 meters, I identified it as a Mississippi Kite and hurried back to my car to find other birders. Charles and Gladyce Rogge accompanied me back to the river but the bird was nowhere to be seen. On our way back to our cars, I spied the kite perched in the grove at a point along which

we has passed earlier. The bird permitted us to approach to within about 25 meters, allowing us a very good look.

The only prior sighting of this species in South Dakota occurred over 150 years ago (*The Birds of South Dakota*, 1978). Johnsgard (*Nebraska Bird Review* 48:26-36) recently analyzed migration schedules for nonpasserine birds in Nebraska. He reported 8 spring and 2 fall Mississippi Kite sightings. This kite appears to be ranging farther northwest in recent years. Since 1979, more records have been obtained in Nebraska and others have been listed in Minnesota.--Gilbert Blankespoor, Augustana College, Sioux Falls 57197.

BURROWING OWL COLORMARKING.--In 1983 Burrowing Owls were colormarked in southcentral Saskatchewan during a research program investigating movements of these owls during the breeding season. Information to aid in determining migration routes and wintering areas that are unknown is requested from anyone seeing a colormarked owl. Each owl carries a Fish and Wildlife band and from 1 to 3 colored plastic leg jesses. Jess colors are yellow, fluorescent red, light blue, and dark green. They are one centimeter wide and extend approximately 1.5 cm beyond the leg. In Manitoba, owls were banded with colored leg bands.

Persons observing colormarked owls should please record the following: location, date, color and position of the leg jess or jesses, leg of attachment of metal leg band and jess or jesses, and any details of the owl's situation. Please send this information to Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7, plus an additional copy to me. Thank you for your assistance.--Elizabeth A. Haug, Department of Veterinary Anatomy, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0W0.

CATTLE EGRETS IN BRULE COUNTY.--The Cattle Egret is considered a rare but increasingly common visitor to South Dakota. On 22 October 1983, I observed 17 Cattle Egrets feeding in a pasture SE Kimball in Brule Co. Both adults and immatures were seen. One adult perched precariously on the back of a grazing cow.--Jack Freidel, SD Game, Fish and Parks, Chamberlain 57325.

UNUSUAL BIRDS AT LAKE ANDES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.--During 1983 water levels on Lake Andes have been good, resulting in an excellent response from water-associated birds. Some of the more noteworthy include the following species.

American Woodcock.--I sighted 1 woodcock on 5 and 15 May on the Mundt National Wildlife Refuge in Gregory Co. in bottomland timber near the Missouri River.

Egrets and Ibis-- On 30 June, Dave Hilley and I found 2 nesting colonies of Cattle Egrets on the South Unit of Lake Andes. We estimated the number of nests at 30 and 35. We also recorded 3 Black-crowned Night-Heron nesting colonies. The number of nests in each colony was estimated at 75, 15, and 30. Finally, on the same date and location, we observed 2 pairs of White-faced ibis, each associated with mixed Cattle Egret/Black-crowned Night-Heron colonies. Although no nests were found, the ibis were probably breeding.

Whooping Crane.--Tuck Stone, Dave Hilley, and I discovered 1 adult Whooping Crane on the South Unit of Lake Andes at 9 a.m. on 26 October. The bird was resting in a shallow marsh. The crane remained until 11:45 am, when it took flight, circled the area for about 5 minutes, gained altitude, and headed south. This record is the first confirmed sighting of a Whooping Crane on the Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge.--John Jave, Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Andes 57356.

LATE GRAY CATBIRD--On 9 November 1983 I was watching 2 Evening Grosbeaks in my yard in Watertown when I looked down and saw a Gray Catbird hiding in some bushes. The weather was very cold. Also, on approximately 9 October 1983, I saw with Bruce Harris's bird class, a male Northern Cardinal at Lake Kampeska.--John Gilman, Watertown 57201.

THE 1983 FALL MIGRATION

by Bruce Harris
Box 605
Clear Lake 57226

Because mild weather continued until the last week of November, we obtained a good number of very late records. Some of the highlights of the season include a Barrow's Goldeneye for the third year at Rapid City, a Black-legged Kittiwake again near Yankton, two Peregrine Falcon records, Pygmy Nuthatches in the southern Black Hills, the first West River record for the Black-throated Blue Warbler, and, most intriguing of all, an Inca Dove in Brookings.

A few corrections to past Season Reports have come to my attention. In SDBN 35:37 (Winter 1982/83), the report of 25 Glaucous Gulls from 3-24 December was not intended to

suggest that 25 different gulls were present on the Missouri River near Yankton. Willis Hall made no attempt to determine total numbers of birds; a maximum of 3 were the most recorded at any 1 site. Apparently the 25 gulls include many duplicate sightings. In SDBN 35:76 (Summer 1983), Green-backed Herons were reported as common on the James River near Watertown. Actually the Sioux River flows through Watertown and not the James, as reported. Finally, also in SDBN 35:76, Pelican nests at Drywood Lake in Roberts Co. numbered 500 (not 186) and cormorant nests were 242 (not 481). The data on these colonies in SDBN 35:57-63 (Spring) are correct.

Contributors cited in this report are: Leon J. Anderson (LJA), Jocelyn L. Baker (JLB), Dave Beck (DB), Mrs. M. F. Biegelmeir (MFB), Gil Blankespoor (GB), Dan L. Bjerke (DLB), Gladyce Cole (GC), R. Cole (RC), John Gilman (JG), Kenneth Graupman (KG), Willis Hall (WH), Bruce K. Harris (BKH), Mark C. Harris (MCH), June Harter (JH), Nelda J. Holden (NJH), Kenneth H. Husmann (KHH), James Johnson (JJ), Tim K. Kessler (TKK), John W. Koerner (JWK), Douglas E. Kreger (DEK), Wm. J. Kurtenbach (WJK), Roxie C. Laybourne (RCL), Ernest E. Miller (EEM), Everett C. Montgomery (ECM), Marjorie J. Parker (MJP), Deb Paulson (DP), Richard A. Peterson (RAP), Mike J. Rabenberg (MJR), Robert G. Rogers (RGR), South Dakota Ornithologists' meeting at Madison (SDOU), Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS), Wm. A. Schultze (WAS), Harvey O. Smith (HOS), Ailyn Spevak (AS), Richard Sowell (RS), Ron Spomer (RCS), Gary J. Stave (GJS), Royce Strasser (RS+), Galen L. Steffen (GLS), Dan A. Tallman (DAT), Erika J. Tallman (EJT), Garner R. Waddel (GRW), Sam J. Waldstein (SJW), Lois I. Wells (LIW), Nathaniel R. Whitney (NRW).

Common Loon-- 25 November, Yankton Co., late date (WH).

Pied-billed Grebe--20 November, Custer Co. (DP). 18 November, Gregory Co. (GLS).

Horned Grebe-- 22 November, Yankton Co., very late (WH). 29 October, Meade Co. (JLB). 20 October, Jackson Co. (KG).

Eared Grebe-- 30 October, Jackson Co., (KG). 5 November, Meade Co., 11, very late (DLB).

Western Grebe--5 November, Roberts Co. (DRS). 19 November, Butte Co. (DLB).

American White Pelican-- 24 November, Deuel Co., flying bird, ties latest ever (GJS). 17 November, Sand Lake (SJW).

Double-crested Cormorant-- 25 November, Yankton Co., 3 (WH). 20 November, Roberts Co. (DRS).

American Bittern-- 17 November, Turner Co., dead in trap, latest ever (LJA).
 Reports also from Charles Mix, Day, and Grant Co.
 Least Bittern--26 August, Waubay NWR (MJR).
 Great Blue Heron--19 November, Turner Co. (LJA). 17 November, Sand Lake NWR (WAS). 17 November, Lyman Co. (DLB).
 Great Egret-- 25 October, Brown Co., latest ever (EOM). 18 October, Grant Co. (DRS). Also earlier in season, Marshall Co., flocks of 35 (MJR) and Roberts Co., 50 (BKH, DRS).
 Snowy Egret--31 August, Lake Co., 11 (LJA).
 Cattle Egret--8 October, Lake Co. 46 (OB). Reports earlier in season from Sand Lake (30) and Day Co. (15).
 Black-crowned Night-Heron--3 September, Jackson Co., 6 (KG).
 Tundra Swan-- 27 November, Day Co., 15, very late (JWK). 23 November, Deuel Co., 9 (GJS). 22 November, Roberts Co., 12 (DRS). 30 October, near Waubay NWR, peaked at 3000 (JWK).
 Greater White-fronted Goose--Reported only from Sand Lake and Jackson Co.
 Snow Goose--22 November, Moody Co., 150 (LIW). 22 November, McCook Co. (LJA).
 Wood Duck--4 November, Deuel Co. (BKH).
 Green-winged Teal-- 20 November, Pennington Co., 2, very late date (DP).
 Mallard--Day Co., albino (MJR).
 Northern Pintail-- 20 November, Hughes Co., very late date (JLB).
 Gadwall-- 30 November, Yankton Co., 6, latest ever (WH). 27 November, Hughes Co., 2 (DP).
 American Wigeon--20 November, Pennington Co., 35 and Custer Co., 32 (DP).
 Redhead-- 30 November, Yankton Co., latest ever (WH). 27 November, Pierre, 2 (DP).
 Ring-necked Duck-- 30 November, Yankton Co., 2, latest ever (WH). 27 November, Pierre (JLB). During November, Deuel Co., concentration of 300 (BKH) and Yankton, 261 (WH).
 Lesser Scaup--27 November, Pierre, 3 (DP). 27 November, Lawrence Co., 2 (OLB). 24 November, Butte Co., 80 (OLB). 17 November, Turner Co. (LJA).
Black Scoter -- 16 November, Yankton Co. (WH). 15 November, Deuel Co. (BKH, GJS).
White-winged Scoter --16 November, Yankton Co. (WH).
 Common Goldeneye--Apparently much down in numbers. None reported from Sand Lake or Waubay NWR. None from southcentral areas (LJA). Only normal numbers reported from Pierre (15), Pennington Co. (20), Butte Co. (12) and Deuel Co. (15).
Barrow's Goldeneye --26 and 27 November, Rapid City, male (RC fide JLB).
 Bufflehead--27 November, Pennington Co. (JLB). 25 November, Yankton Co. (WH). 24 November, Butte Co., 50 (OLB).
 Hooded Merganser--27 November, Pierre (OP). 25 November, Yankton Co. (WH). Reports also from Deuel (3 sightings), Turner Co., and Sand Lake.
 Common Merganser--Apparently much down in numbers. None from Sand Lake or Waubay NWR. Not reported from central SE (LJA). Small groups reported from Pennington, Hughes, Day and Yankton Co.

Ruddy Duck--21 October, Deuel Co., estimated concentration of 5000 (BKH).
Turkey Vulture--Reports from Beadle, Minnehaha, McCook, Bon Homme, and Brown Co.; more than usual for East River.
Osprey--30 October, Day Co. (KHH). 25 October, Hughes Co. (DRS). Reports also from Custer, Sanborn, Walworth, and Fall River Co.
Bald Eagle-- 28 August, Sand Lake NWR, adult, earliest ever (DAT, EJT, RCL). Statewide 31 reported from 9 areas.
Cooper's Hawk--Reports only from Gregory and Day Co. (2).
Northern Goshawk--Deuel Co., 3 (BKH). Fall River Co., 3 (RAP).
Broad-winged Hawk-- 30 September, Brown Co., latest ever (DAT).
Red-tailed Hawk--20 November, Grant Co., late for the NE (DRS).
Ferruginous Hawk--22 October, Pennington Co., 16 (DP). 5 November, Fall River Co., 5 (RAP). Reports also from Lyman, Brule, Stanley, Custer, Jackson, Meade, Day, and Shannon Co.
Rough-legged Hawk--Down in the NE but normal numbers West River. 27 November, Oahe Dam area, 15 (DP).
Golden Eagle--28 October, Sand Lake (TKK). 28 October, Waubay NWR (MJR). 5 November, Fall River Co. (RAP). 20 reported statewide.
Merlin--Reports from Custer, Jackson, Sanborn, Pennington, and Lawrence Co.
Peregrine Falcon --19 September, Sand Lake (SJW) and 11 November, Fall River Co. (RAP). Mid-September, Lawrence Co. (fide DLB).
Prairie Falcon--Reports from Marshall, Day, Roberts, Deuel, Brown, Davison, Turner, Pennington, Fall River, Shannon, Hughes, and Butte Co.
Ruffed Grouse--Black Hills, Norbeck area, 1-2 birds/day (RAP).
Greater Prairie Chicken--24 September, Spink Co. (GC).
Sharp-tailed Grouse--Very common throughout west, flocks of 50 common (KG).
American Coot-- 30 November, Yankton, 24, latest ever (WH). 20 November, Pennington Co., 10 (DP).
Sandhill Crane-- 28 October, Roberts Co., 40, very late (DRS). 9 October, Waubay NWR, 4 (JWK). Late migration in NW (GRW) and a poor flight (GLS).
Black-bellied Plover--12 September (15) and 2 September, Waubay NWR (MJR).
Semipalmated Plover--Jackson Co, 4 observations (KG). Butte Co., 3 (JLB).
Killdeer--10 November, Turner Co., late date (LJA).
American Avocet--12 September, Day Co., 78 (MJR). Butte Co. (JLB).
Solitary Sandpiper--Jackson Co. (KG).
Spotted Sandpiper-- 4 and 16 November, Turner Co., latest ever by three weeks, good details from LJA.
Sanderling--20 August, Jackson Co. (KG).
Semipalmated Sandpiper--Jackson Co. (KG).
Western Sandpiper --20 August, Jackson Co., 2 (KG) but no details of this seldomly observed species.
Least Sandpiper--7 dates, Jackson Co. (KG). Butte Co. (JLB).
Baird's Sandpiper--11 September, Butte Co., 30 (JLB).
Pectoral Sandpiper--2 dates, Jackson Co. (KG).
Stilt Sandpiper--Jackson Co. (KG).
Short-billed Dowitcher--25 September, Roberts Co., call noted (BKH, DRS).
Long-billed Dowitcher-- 27 October, Brown Co., very late (ECM).

Common Snipe--4 November, Day Co. (KHH). 30 November, Lawrence Co. (DLB).
American Woodcock--Reports from Hamlin, Brookings, and Roberts Co.
Wilson's Phalarope--20 August, Jackson Co., 250, unusual concentration (KG).
Red-necked Phalarope--Reported in Brown Co.
Franklin's Gull--1 November, Deuel Co., 1 (BKH). Jackson Co. (KG).
Bonaparte's Gull-- 29 October, Meade Co., only the second record for West River, 4 (JLB). 14 and 21 October, Deuel Co. (BKH). 27 October, Grant Co., 14 (ORS).
Ring-billed Gull-- 19 November, Sand Lake NWR, latest ever (WAS); 23 October, Fall River Co., 70 (MJP, RAP). Butte Co. (DLB).
Glaucous Gull --24 November, Butte Co., Orman Dam (DLB). Details in future issue.
Black-legged Kittiwake --30 November, Yankton Co., ties earliest ever but no details of observation (WH, MFB).
Caspian Tern--21 September, Roberts Co., 2 (BKH).
Common Tern--12 September, Day Co., 15 (MJR). 8 October, Codington Co., 1 (BKH, RS+, JG).
Black Tern--Jackson Co. (KG).
Mourning Dove--15 September, Bon Homme Co., still incubating eggs (LJA).
Inca Dove --Late September until 12 October, Brookings, bird first seen by RS at his feeding station and later observed by NJH, KHH and others; it is unlikely that this bird was a natural migrant because this dove seldom ranges even 100 miles from the Gulf Coast; possibly it was brought north by Mexican field hands and released near South Dakota or it may have escaped from a zoo; however, photos taken show no frayed feathers, a characteristic of caged birds. This record is the first for this species from South Dakota.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo--Jackson Co. (KG).
Snowy Owl--Reports only from Bon Homme, Grant, and Roberts Co. (4 total).
Burrowing Owl--1 October, Stanley Co. (MCH); Meade Co. (DLB).
Short-eared Owl--1 October, Stanley Co., 6 in group (BKH).
Common Nighthawk--27 September, Custer Co. (MJP). 22 August, Jackson Co., heavy movement (KG).
Common Poorwill-- 2 October, Custer State Park (RCS). 30 September, Custer Co. (MJP).
Chimney Swift-- 10 October, Minnehaha Co., latest ever (GB). 9 October, Lake Co. (SDOU). 14 September, Gregory Co. (GLS),
White-throated Swift-- 23 September, Lawrence Co., 5, latest ever (WH). 9 September, Lawrence Co., 4 (DLB).
Red-bellied Woodpecker--14 October, Gregory Co., (GLS). Reports also from Roberts and Deuel Co.
Black-backed Woodpecker--20 November, Lawrence Co. (EEM). 31 October, Custer Co. (RAP).
Olive-sided Flycatcher--Reports from Minnehaha, Brown, and Fall River Co.
Least Flycatcher--24 September, Jackson Co., banded (KG).
Eastern Phoebe--9 and 10 October, Spink Co., latest ever (GC).
Barn Swallow--18 October, Davison Co., very late date (LJA).

Gray Jay--Custer Co., 20 observed during season (JLB).

Pinyon Jay--28-29 September, Beadle Co., details later (JJ). Few seen in Black Hills (NRW).

Clark's Nutcracker--6 November, Custer Co. (MJP). 16 October, Custer Co. (RAP).

Black-billed Magpie--18 October, Waubay NWR (HOS, GRW).

Red-breasted Nuthatch--18 September, Custer Co., 30 (JLB). Good flight in Brown Co. (DAT).

Pygmy Nuthatch --30 October, Custer Co., 6 (RAP).

Canyon Wren--8 November, Lawrence Co. (DLB).

Winter Wren-- 10 November, Yankton Co., latest ever (WH, MFB).

Marsh Wren--20 November, Fall River Co. (RAP).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet-- 5 November, Hyde Co., very late (JH).

Eastern Bluebird--15 November, Yankton Co., 4 (WH). Earlier in season, Day Co., flock of 18 and Yankton Co., flock of 29.

Mountain Bluebird--16 November, Custer Co. (MJP). 1 November, Pennington Co. (NRW).

Townsend's Solitaire--11 November, Brown Co., 1 (DAT, EJT). 25 October, Hughes Co. (DRS).

Swainson's Thrush-- 16 October, Jackson Co., banded (KG).

Hermit Thrush--22 October, Deuel Co., 2 (BKH). 11 and 22 October, Brown Co. (DAT). 9 October, Moody Co. (LIW).

Wood Thrush-- 11 October, Minnehaha Co., latest ever and very few fall reports for this species (GB).

Gray Catbird--12 November, Codrington Co. (JG). 4 November, Yankton (WH) and Brown Co. (DAT).

Brown Thrasher--1 December, Waubay NWR (GRW). 28 November, Brookings Co. (NJH).

Water Pipit-- 5 November, Deuel Co., latest ever (BKH). Reports also from Yankton, Walworth, Custer, and Butte Co.

Sprague's Pipit-- 10 October, Bon Homme Co., latest ever and report with good details (LJA).

Bohemian Waxwing--11 November, Brown Co., 1 (DAT). 30 November, Lawrence Co., 50 (DLB).

Cedar Waxwing--During season, Gregory Co., 140 banded (GLS).

Northern Shrike--Reports from Jackson, Day, Brown, Fall River and Custer Co.

Loggerhead Shrike--17 September, Pennington Co., 2 harassing robins (NRW).

Solitary Vireo--20 October, Minnehaha Co. (GB). 1 October, Brown Co. (DAT, EJT).

Yellow-throated Vireo-- 5 September, Roberts Co. (DRS).

Warbling Vireo--13 September, Turner Co. (LJA).

Philadelphia Vireo--6 October, Gregory Co., banded and only third West River record (GLS). 4 September, Roberts Co. (BKH, DRS).

Red-eyed Vireo-- 12 September, Lawrence Co. (DLB).

Tennessee Warbler-- 15 October, Brown Co., latest ever (DAT).

Orange-crowned Warbler--28 October, Brown Co. (DAT). Jackson Co., 10 banded (KG).

Nashville Warbler--24 October, Brown Co. (DAT). 4 September, Fall River Co., only fourth West River record (RAP).

Yellow Warbler--Jackson Co., 19 banded (KG).

Black-throated Blue Warbler--29 September, Fall River Co., good view of male and first West River record (RAP).

Black-throated Green Warbler--9 and 11 November, Sanborn Co. (RGR).

Blackpoll Warbler-- 24 September, Brown Co., 1 banded, latest ever (DAT, EJT).

American Redstart--15 October, Brookings Co., very late (KHH).

Common Yellowthroat--Jackson Co., 22 banded (KG).

Western Tanager--24 September, Custer Co., late date (MJP).

Northern Cardinal--29 October (BKH, JG, RS+) and 21 November (AS), Codington Co.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak-- 18 October, Deuel Co. (DEK). 10 October, Brown Co., 2 banded (DAT). 5 September, Roberts Co., 28 in small area (DRS).

Indigo Bunting-- 9 October, Gregory Co., latest ever, banded (GLS). 29 September, Turner Co. (LJA).

Dickcissel-- 29 September, Turner Co., very late (LJA).

Rufous-sided Towhee--24 September, Brown Co., both spotted and unspotted races (DAT). 12 November, Waubay NWR (JWK).

Savannah Sparrow-- 28 October, Yankton Co., 3 (WH).

Le Conte's Sparrow--14 October, Clay Co. (WH).

Fox Sparrow--3 October, Deuel Co., 3 (BKH). Reports also from Sanborn and Brown Co.

Lincoln's Sparrow--24 October, Brookings Co., very late (KHH). Jackson Co., 23 banded (KG),

White-throated Sparrow--Late November, Brookings, Brown, and Codington Co.

White-crowned Sparrow-- 17 November, Brown Co. latest ever, 1 banded (DAT, EJT).

Harris' Sparrow--Brown Co., 100 banded (DAT).

Dark-eyed Junco-- 9 September, Brown Co., ties earliest ever (DAT).

Western Meadowlark-- 7 August, Hyde Co., fledgling just out of nest, latest ever (NJH).

Rosy Finch--26 October, Pennington Co., 80+ (NRW).

Common Redpoll--Reported from Day and Codington Co.

Pine Siskin--Good flight year.

Evening Grosbeak--Reports from Day, Brown, Codington, Brookings, Deuel, and Lawrence Co.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 1984 SDOU SPRING MEETING IN ABERDEEN

18-20 MAY 1984

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
ALFRED HINDS MEMORIAL AWARD

The Hinds Memorial is an annual cash award presented to a high school student or a college undergraduate or graduate student who has made a meritorious contribution to South Dakota ornithology. It is presented in memory of Alfred Hinds, a Perkins County rancher and a pioneer birdwatcher and conservationist. The award is small (\$20 to \$50) but is intended to encourage a promising young person to continue to pursue an interest in ornithology. If no student qualifies, other individuals and groups making significant contributions to South Dakota ornithology may qualify. Alternatively, a special SDQU project needing financial support or any agency or organization significantly advancing ornithology or bird conservation in the state may be considered.

Application should be made by letter and must include the name, address, phone number, and school or group affiliation (if any) of the applicant. A 1 page description of the project, its proposed contribution to ornithology, and documentation of the project's value should be enclosed with the letter. In the case of a student applicant, a letter of recommendation from an adult mentor (teacher, 4-H leader, or other knowledgeable adult) should be submitted. All application materials should be sent by 1 May to: SDQU Awards Committee, % Dr. Nathaniel R. Whitney, 633 South Berry Pine Road, Rapid City, SD 57701.

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