

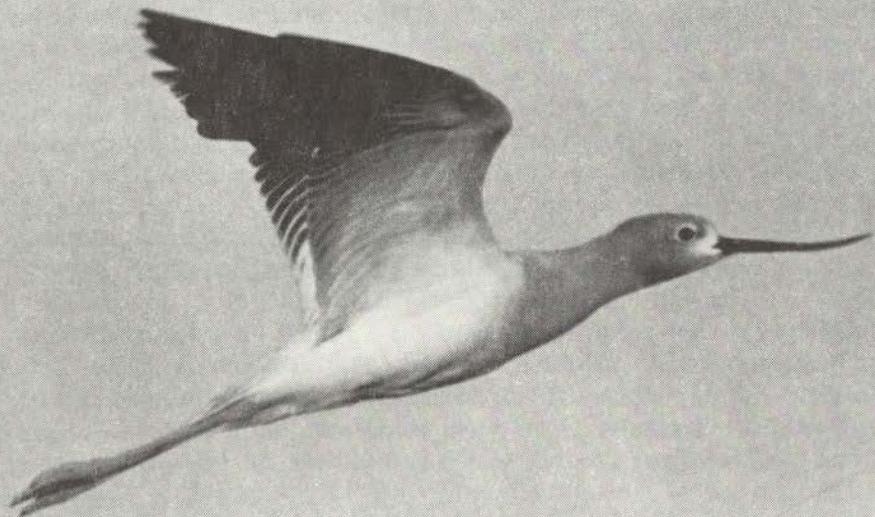
SOUTH DAKOTA  
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NOTES

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Our fall 1984 meeting is now history. The 35 people attending enjoyed interesting scientific sessions. I was glad to see and hear so many first-time speakers—Carolyn Hull Sieg, Erika Tallman, Ken Graupmann, and Rex Riis. The two evening speakers, Dr. Dan Noble on his trip to Pakistan and Dr. Phil Bjork on the *Tyrannosaurus rex* find in Meade Co., were fascinating.

In my September President's Page, I discussed the Breeding Bird Surveys of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and pointed out that 12 routes in central South Dakota have not been run in the last few years. Several people expressed interest in this project following Gil Blankespoor's analysis of 18 years of bird counting on the Lennox route. However, we can still use more volunteers.

Another ongoing project is Bruce Harris' compilation of the Season Reports that appear in each issue of *Bird Notes*. Bruce sends a copy of this information to the regional editor of *American Birds*. The seasons are defined as follows: spring migration, 1 March through 31 May; breeding season, 1 June through 31 July; fall migration, 1 August through 30 November; and winter, 1 December through 28 February. Near the end of each reporting period, Nelda Holden mails out report forms. Bruce needs the forms on his desk 10 days after the end of each period to include data in his report to *American Birds*. Reports received later may still be included in *Bird Notes* if sent in no later than 2 or 3 weeks after the season's end. If you wish to report and are not getting a form, or if you are receiving forms but do not wish to report, please let Nelda know. All of us, amateur and professional alike, can make important contributions to South Dakota Ornithology by publishing our field observations in these season reports.

The Board of Directors has set the time for the SDOU Spring meeting on the weekend of 24–26 May 1985, at Newton Hills State Park, near Sioux Falls. The next fall meeting will be in Pierre, probably early in October. See you there.



## LONG-EARED OWLS NESTING IN BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

by Deborah D. Paulson  
and Carolyn Hull Sieg

USDA Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station  
Rapid City 57701

Long-eared Owls nest at high densities locally over the Great Plains where suitable habitat is limited (Bent 1938), yet, according to Whitney et al. (1978), this species is rare to uncommon in South Dakota. Especially west of the Missouri River, few nesting records have been reported. This paper reports the occurrence of Long-eared Owls in the Badlands National Park between May 1981 and June 1983. The birds were observed by Paulson and Bob Hodorff, a Forest Service technician, during monthly, 4-day bird censuses of Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) stands, and by Paulson alone during additional weekly searches between 26 April and 11 June 1983. Long-eared Owls nested in these juniper woodlands during all 3 years of the censuses. In 1983, 7 nests were found, 5 within an area much smaller than 1 square mile.

The nests were in dense juniper woodlands in steep draws along the northern rim of Sage Creek Basin, 11-16 miles SW of Wall, Pennington Co., South Dakota. Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), cottonwood (*Populus spp.*), and American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) are the dominant trees at the base of the largest draws, with Rocky Mountain Juniper stands on the north-facing slopes and upper ends of the draws. The understory vegetation in the juniper stands consists mainly of Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus officinalis*), Stonyhills Muhly (*Muhlenbergia cuspidata*), and Littleseed Ricegrass (*Oryzopsis micrantha*). While all nests were in juniper trees, 4 were found in areas of mixed juniper-deciduous woodland, and 3 were in almost pure Rocky Mountain Juniper stands.

All but one of the nests were on horizontal branches against the trunks of trees. The exception was on a large horizontal branch a few feet from the main trunk. Nest heights ranged from 12 to approximately 40 feet above the ground. Four of the nests were near the tops of tall, straight juniper trees, surrounded by many similar trees. These nests were difficult to see even after their locations were known. The other nests, well-concealed on 3 sides and fairly exposed in 1 direction, were in large, spreading junipers. Long-eared Owls traditionally use an old nest of a crow, hawk, squirrel, or magpie (Harrison 1975). At

least 1 owl nested in an old magpie nest within 15 feet of an active magpie nest. Two other owls nested within 50 to 150 feet of active crows' nests.

Owls were seen in the draws in 1981 and 1982, but their nesting was not followed closely until 1983. The only firm evidence of nesting in 1981 was an adult with 1 half-grown young seen by Paulson on 28 June. The first nest was found on 4 April 1982 by Hodorff. Several young fledged from this nest, and a group of 4 owls was repeatedly observed at another location from July to October, suggesting at least 1 other successful nest in 1982. Long-eared Owls apparently wintered in the draws in 1982-83. Single birds were observed in 3 draws during censuses in early December 1982 and mid-February 1983.

Activity during the 1983 nesting season was first observed by Hodorff at 2 nests in March (14, 16, 22, and 23 March). The nest found in 1982 was re-used, and by 26 April, all but 1 young had fledged from this nest. Four or 5 owlets remained near the nest until 30 May. Since the incubation period of Long-eared Owls is 24-28 days and young leave the nest at 25-26 days of age (Johnsgard 1979), incubation at this nest probably began in late February or early March. The owls at the other early nest may have experienced a setback, as 2 young were in the nest as late as 17 May, and a very small fledgling was near the nest on 30 May. At least 3 young fledged. On 26 April an owl was flushed from a third nest containing a single egg and a broken egg shell, but fresh remains of an adult owl were found in the draw the following day, and no owls were seen in the draw on several subsequent visits. The last 4 nests were not found until middle to late May, and all had young in or near the nest. All nests were empty by 30 May, but very small fledglings were observed near 2 nests on 29 May.

The owlets observed at the nests were obviously at different stages of development. Long-eared Owls usually lay an egg every other day with incubation beginning with the laying of the first egg (Harrison 1975). Because the usual clutch size is 4-5 eggs (Harrison 1975, Johnsgard 1979), the oldest owlet may be 8 to 10 days old when the last egg hatches. Flightless fledglings were observed at 4 nests. Long-eared Owls typically leave the nest well before they can fly, but both parents feed and guard the young until they can fend for themselves (Bailey and Niedrach 1965).

The owls we observed were usually silent and secretive until some of the young had left the nest. Once fledglings were out, however, the adults became highly vocal and

defensive, repeatedly circling visitors and landing in full view. When this tactic failed to draw intruders away from the fledglings, in at least 2 instances the adult feigned a broken wing. At 3 separate nests when an observer unknowingly approached fledglings too closely, the adult flew to the ground, spread its wings, and kneaded the ground as if handling prey, simultaneously making a high-pitched squeaking or peeping sound. This behavior has been described by Walker (1974). The owls' actions were almost always accompanied by a large variety of intimidating barks, moans, and whines. The owls were defensive but not aggressive, only once swooping close to an observer (when a nestling was being returned to the nest).

Fresh remains of 2 adult Long-eared Owls, in addition to the 1 mentioned above, were found near separate nests on 26 April and 16 May, but an adult owl remained at each nest. The 3 carcasses were almost identical. The wings were left intact, joined by the furcula or wishbone, which had been picked clean of meat. The feet and lower inch of leg were untouched and joined to the leg bones, which were picked clean, but were otherwise intact and joined by the pelvic girdle. The remains closely fit a description of carcasses left by Great Horned Owls (Einarson 1956), which have been observed in the surrounding area, although never in the juniper draws during the 2 years of censuses.

Why so few Long-eared Owls have been reported in South Dakota is not clear. They may not be uncommon in the very limited habitat available. In well-visited areas such as the Cliff Shelf Nature Trail near Cedar Pass, nesting Long-eared Owls have been reported in 1976 and 1977 by Rick Wilt, then a park naturalist, and in 1983 by Paulson. These owls are highly nocturnal, secretive, silent, and difficult to see outside the nesting season. Even the large nests can be almost impossible to locate, especially in dense juniper stands. Long-eared Owls do become highly visible when they have flightless young out of the nest. In our experience, the owl almost always found the observer and not vice versa. Because the young leave the nest so early in a staggered age order, the adults can be vocal and visible for as long as a month. According to the 1983 Badlands nesting season records, mid-April to mid-June is probably the most rewarding time to look for nesting Long-eared Owls. Considering the relatively high nesting density of these owls in the Badlands National Park in 1983, Long-eared Owls may be much more common in South Dakota than previous records indicate.

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#### GENERAL NOTES

FIRST SOUTH DAKOTA RECORD FOR TOWNSEND'S WARBLER.--On 1 September 1984 we saw a male Townsend's Warbler at LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge. The bird was 12-15 feet from the ground in the branches of a large willow and other surrounding saplings on the east side of the bird walk near the refuge headquarters. We saw the bird in very good light and at one point observed it from 20 feet with 10x binoculars.

The bird was in nearly perfect breeding plumage. The cap and throat were blackish; the blackish, triangular cheek patch was bordered above and below by yellow stripes; the breast was bright yellow, as were the sides, which were streaked with black. The belly was whitish, the wings were blackish with 2 strong white wing bars, and the back was dark olive. The bright plumage suggests that the individual was a spring-plumaged adult male. However, we do not know if Townsend's Warbler young of the year acquire an adult-like plumage during the summer (as do Black-throated Blue Warblers).

The Townsend's Warbler was among a loosely associated group of birds that included 2 Willow Flycatchers, an Orange-crowned Warbler, and 2 Wilson's Warblers. Coons has had experience with Townsend's Warblers on the breeding grounds in the Sierra Nevada of California, and during spring and fall migration in several localities in Arizona and California during the last 5 years. We went back to the

car for our cameras but could not find the bird when we returned. At the time we saw the warbler, we were not aware that it is only listed in *The Birds of South Dakota* as hypothetically occurring in the state.--Deb Paulson and John Coons, Rapid City 57702.

PARTIALLY ALBINO MOURNING DOVE.--On 8 August 1984 I spotted a partially albino Mourning Dove in Charles Mix Co., 6 miles south of Platte SD, on Highway 45. The dove was white with spots of normal-colored plumage on 20% of its body. I saw the bird again in the same area on 13 August 1984. As on the previous occasions, the albino associated with normally plumaged doves.--Dennis Skadsen, Platte Creek 57369.

ABNORMALLY PLUMAGED ROBIN.--Have you seen a robin with no white in its plumage? On 10 September 1984 we were surprised to find such a bird in our mist net. Only a tiny bit of white graced the end of the outer tail feathers, but all other white areas in the usual robin were bright rufous in this bird. The throat was rufous with a few black stripes; the spot before the eye and the broken eye ring were rufous. A light rufous line ran behind the eye. There was no dark band across the breast and no wing bars were present. Gil Blankespoor agreed with us that the bird was an aberrantly plumaged robin. After banding and photographing the bird, we released it.--Charles and Gladycy Rogge, Sioux Falls 57105.

PARTIALLY ALBINO CHIPPING SPARROW AND FIELD SPARROW.--On 22 September 1984, I netted, banded (#1690-01121; permit 9571), photographed, and released a partially albino Chipping Sparrow. The bird was primarily normal-colored and was just leaving its streaky-breasted juvenile plumage. However its nape was a pearly grayish-white and its back contained a liberal speckling of white feathers. A few primary coverts on both wings were also white.

On 28 September 1984, I netted, banded (#1690-01174), photographed and released a partially albino Field Sparrow. This bird's head, wing coverts, and back were speckled with white. The rump was almost pure white. Although I did not see it in the interim, I retrapped this bird on 10 October 1984.

Terres (*The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*) cites only 1 record of albinism in the Chipping Sparrow and none for the Field Sparrow; Blankespoor (SDBN 34:41) does not list albinos for either of these species as having been previously reported in South

Dakota.--Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

RAPTOR REHABILITATION REPORT.--The following is a list of the raptors treated and/or examined by Dr. Harry Burrish, DVM, and me for the 1983 calendar year under permit #PRT2-2571-DN.

Snowy Owl. An adult female was presented to us on 11 January 1983 with a severe compound humeral fracture, which was pinned, wired, and splinted. After 3 weeks of care, the wing became gangrenous. With amputation the only alternative, the bird was put to sleep.

Bald Eagle. A physical exam revealed obvious damage to this immature. Continued observation revealed a possible bacterial GI infection. The bird was treated with antibiotics until the droppings appeared normal. The eagle was then rehabilitated by flying on the end of a tether until fit enough to be released at Sand Lake Refuge on 14 April 1983.

Rough-legged Hawk. An immature with a compound fracture of the radius and ulna was given to us on 21 October 1983. X-ray showed lead fragments present. The wound was thought to be very old and was badly infected. Since the bird had little chance for recovery, it was destroyed on 27 October 1983.

Red-tailed Hawk. Brought to us on 27 October 1983, this immature had a fractured radius. Infection was present. The fracture was stabilized by a closed reduction and the infection was treated with antibiotics. The infection and fracture were successfully treated, although the bird still shows signs of a possible head wound. The hawk is still being held pending rehabilitation. Another immature Red-tail, with a fractured foot and leg from a possible trap incident, was given to us on 9 December 1983. It also had a traumatic amputation at the humerus. Gangrenous infection was present at both wound sites and the bird was destroyed on the same day.

Great Horned Owl. This bird was presented to us on 19 November 1983. The radius, ulna, and metacarpals were fractured. The severity of the infection was the deciding factor in destroying the bird on the same date.--Doug Jones, Conservation Officer, SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Sisseton 57262.

ROSS' GOOSE IN EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA.--In March and April 1984 I assisted in a nutrient reserve acquisition study of Lesser Snow Geese in eastern South Dakota. Ray Alisauskas,

a Ph.D. candidate, and 2 assistants were following the geese from their wintering grounds along the Gulf of Mexico to their Arctic nesting areas. The purpose of the study was to determine the location and timing of fat accumulation during their northward migration. Lesser Snow Geese rely entirely on these stored nutrients for egg-laying and incubation. The size of a female's reserves determines her clutch size.

While collecting Snow Geese for this study near Hurly on 27 March 1984, we shot a Ross' Goose that was mixed in with a flock of Snow Geese. Ross' Geese are considered to be rare in the state. *The Birds of South Dakota* indicates only 6 observations during the spring migration. *Birds of North America* by Robbins et al. (1966) does not show Ross' Geese as migrating through the central flyway, although the new edition of this guide does show them here. Thus many birders, like myself, who do not have the new edition of the Robbins Guide, have not spent much time looking for Ross' Geese in South Dakota.

Ross' Geese look like a miniature Snow Goose. The Ross' bill, however, is stubbier and lacks the Snow Goose's black edging of the upper and lower mandibles, which resemble lips. On the base of the Ross' bill is a purplish color that is lacking on the Snow Goose. The rosy pink of the Ross' bill and legs differs from the Snow's pink to orange-pink fleshy parts. To distinguish these birds in the field, one must have good light, be within 300 yards, and possess a good spotting scope. While scanning the large Snow Goose flocks, I look for white geese with stubby bills lacking black lips. Once a bird is located, the other characteristics can usually be seen.

Once familiar with the field marks of the birds, I began searching for Ross' Geese among the large flocks of Snow Geese. Because the season was late, I was only able to get within reasonable distance of two flocks. Surprisingly, I found Ross' Geese in both groups. In the first flock of Snow Geese (Turner Co., 30 March 1984), I was able to clearly see 5 Ross' Geese intermingling with the Snows. In the second group (Hutchinson Co., 31 March 1984), I counted 6 Ross' Geese. More Ross' may have been present in both flocks. Conservation Officers Dan Limmer and Arden Peterson reported observing a Ross' Goose in Kingsbury Co.

I am sure that Ross' Geese will not be found in every flock of Snow Geese but birders will surely report more sightings once they are aware of this species' presence and field marks. Ross' Geese have probably been here for some time; we just never thought to look for it. Most previous records of the species have been hunter-killed birds from

Sand Lake.--Leon J. Anderson, Marion 57043.

BANDED PINE SISKIN RECOVERED IN SASKATCHEWAN.--Recently I was informed by the Bird Banding Laboratory that a Pine Siskin that I had banded in Aberdeen on 11 December 1983 (#1670-45356) was recovered on 18 May 1984 at Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. The bird was found by Hazel Lester after it had flown into an object. Regina is about 450 miles NW of Aberdeen. Siskins are my most often recovered species: 1 of my siskins was recovered in Kansas and I caught a siskin that was originally banded in Kansas by Arthur Nonhof (Tallman 1983, SDBN 35:21; Nonhof 1984, Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin 35:24). Of additional interest is a siskin that I banded at Aberdeen on 12 June 1982 (1630-95305) and retrapped at the same location on 5 November 1983.--Dan A. Tallman, Permit 9571, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

#### THE 1984 BREEDING SEASON

by Bruce Harris  
Box 605  
Clear Lake 57226

The cool, very wet spring and early summer (to mid-June) seemed to delay migration and probably adversely affected nesting. July, on the other hand, was rather hot with less than average rainfall.

The mixed rookery at Lake Preston included all 3 egrets, Little Blue Herons, White-faced Ibis, and Black-crowned Night-herons. The area received continuing rainfall during May and early June, topped with a 6-inch downpour on the watershed about 15 June. On 2 July the lake water rose about 10 inches and the only birds observed were terns and Franklin's Gulls. Visits to nearby Lake Thompson gave reason to suspect that Cattle Egrets and Franklin's Gulls had active colonies on that wetland. Whitewood Lake, which had been used by colonial breeders in 1981 and 1982, was also flooded and had no cover available. We can only hope that these colonies recover.

Sam Waldstein, manager at Sand Lake NWR, reported taking photographs of a Falcated Teal. These photos were examined by Dan Tallman, who could not provide a conclusive identification but who thought the duck may have been a Baikal Teal. Either species would have been a new addition

to the state list, although both would have been likely escapes from captivity.

On the Missouri River, heavy spring rains and water draw-downs by the Corps of Engineers may have flooded most nests of Piping Plovers and Least Terns.

Reporters cited in this report are: Leon J. Anderson (LJA); Jocelyn L. Baker (JLB); Les Baylor (LB); Bruce C. Coonrod (BCC); Joe Evanich (JE); Dave Ewer (DE); John M. Gilman (JMG); Kenneth Graupmann (KG); Willis Hall (WH); June Harter (JH); Bruce K. Harris (BKH); Augie Hoeger (AH); Kenneth H. Husmann (KHH); Florence Kurz (FK); Ernest Miller (EM); Marjorie J. Parker (MJP); Debbie D. Paulson (DDP); Richard A. Peterson (RAP); Mike J. Rabenberg (MJR); Rex Riis (RR); Robert G. Rogers (RGR); William A. Schultze (WAS); Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS); Mark Skadsen (MS); Galen L. Steffen (GLS); Dan A. Tallman (DAT); Sam J. Waldstein (SJW); Jeff Weigle (JW); Nat R. Whitney (NRW).

COMMON LOON--Observed during July, Waubay NWR (fide MJR).

EARED GREBE--23 June, Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, very large colony (estimated 500 nests) (KHH, MJR).

WESTERN GREBE--Lake Andes NWR, nesting (DRS).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN--28 May, Roberts Co., Drywood Lake, 658 nests with 70% full clutch (BKH, KHH, DRS, MS). 28 May, Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, 796 nests with 75% full clutch (BKH, KHH, DRS, MS). 13 June, Codington Co., Grass Lake, 575 nests, 95% hatched (BKH, JMG). Waubay Lake, 603 nests (MJR).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT--13 June, Codington Co., Grass Lake, 146 nests, 33% hatched (BKH, JMG). 28 May, Roberts Co., Drywood Lake, 204 nests, 30% full clutch (BKH, KHH, DRS, MS). 28 May, Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, 422 nests (BKH, KHH, DRS, MS, MJR). Waubay Lake, 280 nests (MJR). Nesting also reported from Faulk, Jackson, and Gregory Co.

AMERICAN BITTERN--2 July, Grant Co., flushed from nest (MJR).

GREAT BLUE HERON--Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, 5 tree nests. Roberts Co., Drywood Lake, 3 nests on ground (BKH). Gregory Co., nesting along Missouri River (GLS).

GREAT EGRET--11 June, Lake Preston, at least 4 in large mixed colony that was flooded out ca. 15 June; birds later observed near Cattle Egret colony at Lake Thompson, but nesting not confirmed (BKH). Lake Co., 9 near Great Blue Heron colony (LJA). Reported also from Davison Co. (LJA).

SNOWY EGRET--9 June, Day Co., Rush Lake, minimum of 5 pairs nesting (BKH, DRS). 11 June, Lake Preston, at least 6 but later flooded out--not observed later at Lake Thompson (BKH). Brown Co., Sand Lake, at least 2 pairs nesting in mixed colony (SJW).

LITTLE BLUE HERON --11 June, Lake Preston, 4-7 birds--after colony was flooded on 15 June, birds moved to Lake Thompson, where 6, including a second-year bird, were observed on 2 July (BKH).

- CATTLE EGRET--9 June, Rush Lake, at least 30 pairs nesting (BKH, DRS). 11 June, Lake Preston, over 100 in colony; after this area was flooded, 195 were observed near Lake Thompson where at least 50, whose origins are uncertain, definitely nested (BKH). Brown Co., Sand Lake, 36 in colony (SJW). Reports also from Hutchinson, Lake, and McCook Co. (LJA).
- GREEN-BACKED HERON--30 May, Codington Co., nests with eggs (BKH, JMG).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON--9 June, Rush Lake, at least 50 pairs and on 11 June a minimum of 100 birds; however, birds not present after flooding (BKH, JMG).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON --10 June, Lake Co., Wentworth Slough, good view of adult (LJA).
- WHITE-FACED IBIS--11 June, Lake Preston, at least 3 observed at colony. 2 July, Lake Thompson, 20 birds present after Lake Preston flood but no nesting evidence (BKH). Brown Co., Sand Lake NWR, 2 pairs nesting (SJW).
- BRANT --3 February, Stanley Co., late report of Pacific race photographed on Missouri River (fide RR).
- WOOD DUCK--Gregory Co., 4 broods on Burke Lake during period (GLS).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK --13 June, Codington Co., Grass Lake (BKH, JMG).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL--Reported from Pennington Co. (JLB) and Jackson Co. (KG).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL--13 June, Codington Co., Grass Lake, full albino (BKH, JMG).
- AMERICAN WIGEON--Waubay NWR, nesting (MJR).
- RING-NECKED DUCK--18 June, Roberts Co., brood with hen (MJR).
- LESSER SCAUP--25 June, Codington Co., upland nest, 200 yards from water, with 12 eggs (MJR).
- BUFFLEHEAD--10 June, Lake Co., Wentworth Slough, pair acting broody (LJA).
- COMMON MERGANSER --6 June, Canyon Lake, brood of downy young, first breeding record since 1875 (LB, NRW).
- RUDY DUCK--Lake Co., nest with 2 eggs (LJA).
- BALD EAGLE--8 July, Ziebach-Haakon Co. line, immature on Cheyenne River (BCC, RR).
- NORTHERN HARRIER--Day Co., nest with ca. 3 young (MJR et al.).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK--21 July, Meade Co., adult and 2 fledged young (EM). The details are lacking for the only other modern record, in 1971, for this species' nesting in South Dakota.
- COOPER'S HAWK--26 May, Roberts Co., Big Stone Lake, nest 60 feet up in oak--by 29 July 2 fledged young were present, although in the interim, the nest had appeared to be deserted (BKH). 14 July, Jackson Co., nest with young fledged on 20 July (KG). 2 June, Fall River Co., adult easily approached and perhaps nesting in vicinity (RAP).
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK--4 July, Pennington Co. (RAP).
- FERRUGINOUS HAWK--Brown Co., nest and young (BKH). 18 April, Hyde Co., tree nest (JH).
- RUFFED GROUSE--Pennington Co., 3 gray and 4 red-phased birds drumming (JLB).
- GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN-- Marshall Co., nest during period (MJR).
- SHARP-TAILED GROUSE--28 May, Roberts Co., 3 birds flushed from lek (as in 1982) (BKH, KHH, MS). 13 July, Marshall co., brood (MJR).
- VIRGINIA RAIL--Reports from Deuel and Sanborn Co.

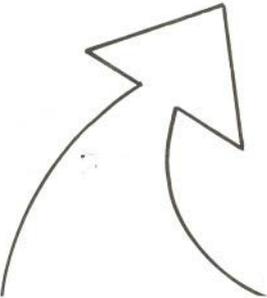
PIPING PLOVER--3 July, Hughes Co., 2 nests, later flooded, on Missouri River (RR).  
 KILLDEER--Codington Co., young apparently raised on roof of old post office building (BKH).  
 AMERICAN AVOCET--Reported in Sanborn, Miner, Hanson, Davison, McCook, and Jackson Co. Nests in Roberts and Day Co.  
 WILLET--23 July, Jackson Co. (KG).  
 SPOTTED SANDPIPER--Turner Co. (LJA).  
 UPLAND SANDPIPER--Pennington Co. (JLB).  
 LONG-BILLED CURLEW--Pennington Co., only report (JLB).  
 HUDSONIAN GODWIT--2 June, Roberts Co., late migrant (BKH, DRS).  
 MARBLED GODWIT--July, Jackson Co., 6 sightings, including 9 on 18 July (KG).  
 COMMON SNIBE--Reports from Deuel, Codington, Roberts, McCook, Lawrence, and Kingsbury Co.  
 AMERICAN WOODCOCK--Reports from Waubay NWR and Yankton Co.  
 WILSON'S PHALAROPE--17 May and 25 June, Codington Co., nests (MJR). Reports also from Hutchinson and Miner Co.  
 FRANKLIN'S GULL--Lake Preston, very large colony (several thousand) flooded out but also nesting at Lake Thompson (BKH). Brown Co., Sand Lake NWR, 30,000 nesting (WAS). Jackson Co., 3 observations (KG).  
 CALIFORNIA GULL--28 May, Waubay Lake, 23 nests, full clutches (BKH, DRS). 29 July, Dahe Dam, 3, including 1 immature (RR).  
 CASPIAN TERN --8 June, Brown Co., Sand Lake NWR, presumably late migrant (DAT).  
 COMMON TERN--28 May, Drywood Lake, 24 nests (2 and 3 eggs) (BKH, KHH, DRS, MS). 22 June, Piyas Lake, 7 nests and ca. 20 adults (KHH, MJR).  
 FORSTER'S TERN--9 June, Day Co., Rush Lake, ca. 32 nests (13 checked, 2 and 3 eggs) (BKH, DRS). 10 June, Lake Co., Wentworth Slough, 12 nests in 3 groups (LJA). 6-30 July, Jackson Co., regularly observed, with 12 on 23 July (KG).  
 LEAST TERN--Oahe Dam, 4 nests, later flooded (BCC, RR). 8 July, Cheyenne River between SD Highways 34 and 63, 29 birds and 1 nest with 2 eggs (BCC, RR).  
 BLACK TERN--July, Jackson Co., regularly observed, with 12 on 23 July (KG).  
 BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO--Yankton Co., nest (LJA). Apparently less common than Yellow-billed Cuckoo in NE this year.  
 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO--More reports than normal, observed or heard in Deuel, Lake, McCook, Jackson, Roberts, Codington, Fall River, and Brown Co.  
 BURROWING OWL--McCook Co., probably nesting (LJA).  
 LONG-EARED OWL--14 May, Badlands NP, nest, later abandoned (JLB, DDP).  
 SHORT-EARED OWL--No reports after, at least in west, a good year.  
 COMMON POORWILL--Regular on outskirts of Rapid City, Fall River, and Lawrence Co. (NRW, MJP).  
 WHIP-POOR-WILL--17-22 June, Roberts Co., Hartford Beach State Park, bird observed and heard (DRS).  
 RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD--Observed only in Day and Roberts Co.  
 LEWIS' WOODPECKER--Custer Co. (RAP, MJP).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER--Nesting in Roberts (DRS) and Custer Co. (NRW).  
 THREE-TOED WOODPECKER--20-22 June, Sylvan Lake, feeding young in nest (NRW).  
 This report is only the third nest record for state.  
 WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE--23 June, Fall River Co., nest (RAP).  
ALDER FLYCATCHER --2 June, Lake Co., 3 late migrants calling (JE).  
 LEAST FLYCATCHER--26 and 28 July, Jackson Co., banded (KG). 2 July, Turner  
 Co., nest building--by 19 July a second nest with 1 egg and 3 newly-hatched  
 young (LJA).  
 DUSKY FLYCATCHER--Pennington Co., 5 on Breeding Bird Survey (JLB).  
 SAY'S PHOEBE--10 July, Hutchinson Co., 2 fledged juveniles (LJA).  
 HORNED LARK--23 April, Hyde Co., photograph of nest (JH).  
 PURPLE MARTIN--Gregory Co., 50 nests in Burke (GLS).  
CLARK'S NUTCRACKER --22 July, in Wyoming, but only 1½ miles from South Dakota  
 (RAP).  
 PYGMY NUTHATCH--15 July, Custer Co., 10 (MJP, RAP).  
 AMERICAN DIPPER--June, Lawrence Co., 4 nests located (WH).  
 EASTERN BLUEBIRD--May, Waubay NWR, 6 nests and 3-4 second nestings in July  
 (KHH).  
 MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD--14 July, near Pierre, female observed (RR).  
 VEERY--June, Sica Hollow (BKH).  
 SWAINSON'S THRUSH--7 June, Jackson Co., late migrant banded (KG).  
 LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE--13 June, Codington Co. (BKH).  
 SOLITARY VIREO--23 June, Fall River Co., feeding young (RAP).  
 BLUE GROSBEEK--31 July-25 August, Brookings Co., singing male (FK). Reports  
 also from Charles Mix and Minnehaha Co.  
 INDIGO BUNTING--Reported from Codington, Deuel, Roberts, and Day Co.  
 CLAY-COLORED SPARROW--15 June, Roberts Co., nest (DRS).  
 LARK SPARROW--25 June, Roberts Co., not found on subsequent visits (BKH).  
HENSLOW'S SPARROW --Ca. 15 June, Ordway Memorial Prairie, close observation  
 of singing bird (JW, DE, both Nature Conservancy employees); rare bird form  
 has been forwarded to JW.  
 SWAMP SPARROW--Turner Co. (LJA).  
 CASSIN'S FINCH--1 June and 7 July, Fall River Co. (RAP). 10 and 11 July,  
 Custer, on later date 5, including begging young (RAP).  
 PINE SISKIN--Evidence of widespread nesting in NE this spring, with possible  
 second broods since birds were present into July.  
 AMERICAN GOLDFINCH--Turner Co., 3 nests (LJA).  
 EVENING GROSBEEK--Lawrence Co., 2 on Roubidoux Breeding Bird Survey in Black  
 Hills (NRW).

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