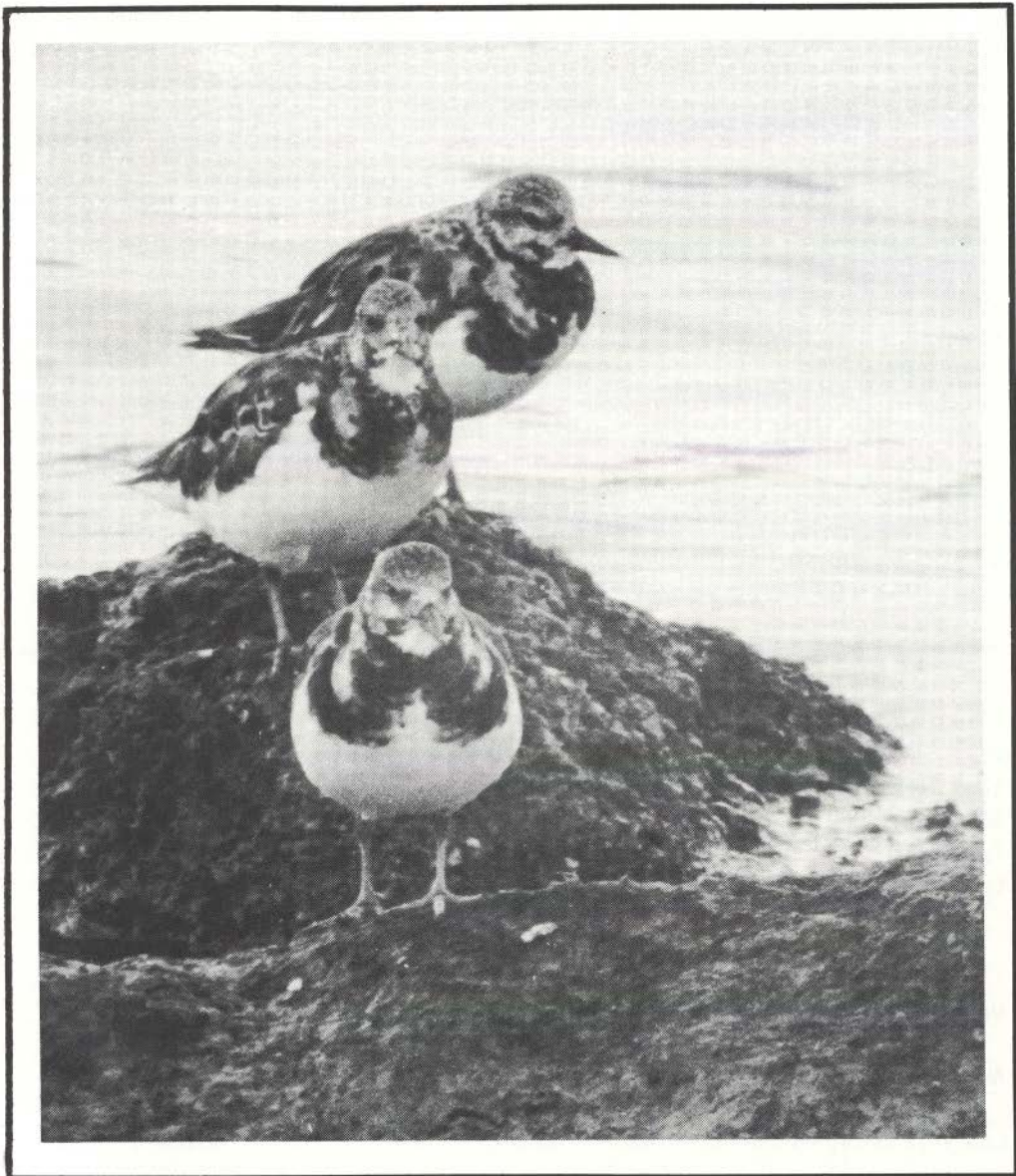


SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH
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DAKOTA
NOTES

South Dakota Bird Notes, the official publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (organized 1949), is sent to all members whose dues are paid for the current year. Life members \$125.00; sustaining members \$12.00; regular members \$6.00; family members (husband and wife) with 1 subscription to Bird Notes \$9.00; juniors (10-16) \$3.00; libraries (subscription) \$6.00. Single and back copies: Members \$1.50, Non-members \$2.00. All dues payment, change-of-address notices, and orders for back issues should be sent to the Treasurer, Nelda Holden, Rt. 4, Box 252, Brookings SD 57006. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to Editor Dan Tallman, NSC Box 740, Aberdeen SD 57401.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Save room on your bookshelf for the second edition of *The Birds of South Dakota*. At the May 1982 SDOU meeting, we decided, before republishing it, to revise our state bird book. In other words, we will not reprint the original book, but instead we will rewrite it, eliminating the mistakes that we know to be there and adding to the information that we have accumulated since 1975. Although the book was published in 1978, the manuscript was completed in May 1975. Our original cutoff date for inclusion of records was 31 December 1974. Therefore, we now have 10 years of data to assimilate into the book. Revision is a slow process; we work with a word processor and try to cover several species at each meeting. Predicting a publication date is difficult, but we currently are aiming at 1988, 10 years after publication of the first edition and 6 years after the reactivation of the Checklist Committee.



The committee currently consists of Gil Blankespoor, Byron Harrell, Bruce Harris, Nelda Holden, Paul Springer, Dan Tallman, and myself. Also, Richard Mewaldt, who spoke to our meeting in Aberdeen last May, offered to help us with a search of federal bird banding files. The other 2 coauthors for the first edition - James W. Johnson and B. J. Rose - were unable to continue with us, and we thank them again for their previous work.

Although we are rewriting, we still want to consider significant new information, and we can still incorporate new data into the species accounts. Please continue to send your reports each season to Bruce Harris. If you observe something that is of interest, write it up as a note and send it to our editor, Dan Tallman. Both kinds of reports will bring your observations to the attention of the Checklist Committee. I think that our most urgent need is for precise nesting information: the location and date of nesting, the stage of incubation or the age of young, and the names of observers. But migration dates, with unusual numbers or dates, are also of interest. Of course, all really spectacular observations need to be verified.

AUDUBON'S 1843 JOURNEY

Jocelyn L. Baker
Rapid City 57702

On 25 April 1843, a half century prior to South Dakota's statehood and 4 decades after the Lewis and Clark expedition traversed Dakota Territory via the Missouri River, John James Audubon, naturalist, artist, and ornithologist, departed from St. Louis, Missouri. He embarked on a river voyage through the present states of North and South Dakota to the American Fur Company's outpost at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Audubon returned in October of the same year. This expedition was the last of Audubon's many trips undertaken to gather material (field notes, sketches, and specimens) for his books (i.e., *The Birds of America* and *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*). Pierre Chouteau, Jr., head of the American Fur Company based in Fort Pierre, offered Audubon's party free transportation on board the side-wheeler *Omega*.

Accompanying Audubon on the trip was a small but distinguished group of naturalists and scientists. Edward Harris, Audubon's 44-year old benefactor who previously accompanied him to the Florida Keys, compiled notes on the shoreline's geology. Because he regarded Harris as an "ardent and successful cultivator of ornithology," Audubon named 3 birds in his friend's honor. Another close friend was 31-year old John Graham Bell, a first-rate taxidermist who collected specimens for a number of U.S. naturalists in the mid-19th century. As an expedition member, he prepared the collected specimens. Isaac Sprague was asked to accompany the group to assist Audubon with the drawings. At 32 years old, he was considered the most skilled and prolific botanical draftsman in the United States.

The *Omega* and its passengers (the Audubon party and about 100 mostly French Canadian trappers) took 49 days to reach Fort Union, located near the present-day North Dakota-Montana border. The return trip required only 15 days. Although the trip took less time than many others of that day, the steamer still had to stop often along the way to take on firewood. Heavy winds occasionally stopped the boat's progress, and shifting sandbars caused the boat to go aground.

New species recorded on this trip were not numerous. Three new sparrows were discovered and named. The first was called "Harris'" after Audubon's friend. A second was named for Dr. John LeConte, a keen naturalist. This bird was ac-

tually a rediscovery since it had originally been described by an English ornithologist from a specimen collected in Georgia and named *Fringilla caudacuta* ("little finch with the sharp tail"). The scientific name for this species is now *Ammodramus leconteii*. The third sparrow was called "Shattuck's Bunting" after George Shattuck, a Harvard medical student who had accompanied Audubon to Labrador in 1833. This bunting later was named the Clay-colored Sparrow.

Other "firsts" were a vireo named after Bell; a longspur for Gideon B. Smith of Baltimore, an editor who acted as an agent in the sale and distribution of an edition of *The Birds of America*; a woodpecker Audubon called "Missouri Red-moustached Woodpecker," later acknowledged as a subspecies of the Common Flicker (Audubon's notes indicate that when Sprague shot 5 flickers, each had a different set of markings, indicating interbreeding of the 2 formerly recognized species, the Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted); and a meadowlark whose song was distinctly different from the Eastern's and that was given the scientific name *Sturnella neglecta* (the neglected meadowlark) since the bird had been overlooked for years because of its close resemblance to the Eastern species.

On the return trip, the steamer was detained for several days due to high winds below the point where the Moreau River flows into the Missouri. Bell shot a number of Passenger Pigeons and also a bird similar to the Whip-poor-will. Audubon called it "Nuttall's Whip-poor-will" after Thomas Nuttall, one of the leading botanists and ornithologists of the time. Audubon noted that this bird was smaller than the Whip-poor-will and had a different call, repeated often and quickly, which sounded like "Oh-will, oh-will." This species, the last discovered by Audubon's party, is now known as the Common Poorwill.

Although Audubon was only 58 years old on this expedition, he complained of symptoms of advancing age and did lose his last remaining upper tooth. A few years after 1843, Audubon spoke of himself as "a poor old man." Since he refused to wear glasses, declining vision brought about the cessation of his painting. By 1848 Audubon had become senile and, on 27 January 1851, he died.

Audubon's journey along the Missouri adds to the mystique of that historic body of water. The recent construction of several dams for flood control and hydroelectric power has altered the river greatly. One wonders if Audubon would recognize the river and the surrounding land, if he were to traverse his route today. Regardless of the physical changes, many of the bird species have remained the same. When-

ever the Western Meadowlark's song is heard, birdwatchers can enjoy the same pleasure experienced by Audubon almost 150 years ago.

References

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- Durant, M. and M. H. 1980. On the Road with John James Audubon. New York, Dodd, Meade.
- Gruson, E. S. 1972. Words for Birds: a Lexicon of North American Birds with Biographical Notes. New York, Quadrangle Books.

GENERAL NOTES

WHITNEY 1984 BANDING REPORT.--My 1984 banding was as follows: 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Cedar Waxwing, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 1 White-crowned Sparrow, 28 White-winged Juncos, 14 Slate-colored Juncos, 2 Oregon Juncos, 1 Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, 57 Pine Siskins, 2 American Goldfinches, 7 Evening Grosbeaks. All the siskins were banded in the spring, the species being virtually absent in the fall.

Les Baylor retrapped 2 of my Pinyon Jays: #1173-07953, an adult originally banded 3 September 1977, retrapped 12 October 1984, thus at least 8 years old; # 1173-07979, an immature banded on 29 November 1980, retrapped 17 March 1984, and thus 4 years old. On 11 January 1985, I retrapped a male White-winged Junco (870-11343) that I banded 18 December 1981 (now at least 4 years old).--N. R. Whitney, Rapid City 57702.

BURKE 1984 BANDING.--The following is a list of the 37 bird species (858 individuals) that I banded in the Burke area of Gregory Co. during 1984. I had two interesting returns: a nestling Purple Martin I banded on 29 June 1979 was recovered on 2 June 1984 at Ainsworth, Nebraska; and an adult female Mourning Dove that I banded near Burke on 30 June 1979 was shot near the original banding site on 10 September 1984.

1	Northern Flicker	2	Gray Catbird
21	Purple Martin	29	Brown Thrasher
11	Blue Jay	11	Cedar Waxwing
3	Black-capped Chickadee	19	Orange-crowned Warbler
3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Nashville Warbler
3	House Wren	11	Yellow-rumped Warbler
2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Bay-breasted Warbler
3	Swainson's Thrush	1	Common Yellowthroat
252	American Robin	3	Wilson's Warbler

2	Hybrid grosbeak	42	Dark-eyed Junco
1	Lazuli Bunting	53	Common Grackle
1	American Tree Sparrow	2	Brown-headed Cowbird
50	Chipping Sparrow	1	Orchard Oriole
26	Clay-colored Sparrow	44	Northern Oriole
2	Field Sparrow	1	White-winged Crossbill
11	Lincoln's Sparrow	200	Pine Siskin
3	White-throated Sparrow	20	American Goldfinch
13	White-crowned Sparrow	4	Black-headed Grosbeak
5	Harris' Sparrow	--	Galen L. Steffen, Burke

LATE DATE FOR OSPREY AT BURKE LAKE.--From 21 October to 13 November 1984, an Osprey was present at Burke Lake State Recreation Area in Gregory Co. The bird was observed nearly every day during this period and, since it flew well and caught fish, apparently was not injured.

Although Burke Lake is a favorite stopping place for Ospreys during spring and fall migrations (1 or 2 are usually seen in each season), I had never known 1 to linger for such an extended period. Also noteworthy is the late date of 13 November--only 1 later fall date is listed in *The Birds of South Dakota* (Whitney et al.).--Galen Steffen, Burke 57523.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI IN GREGORY COUNTY.--While birding on the morning of 22 September 1984 in the Burke Lake Recreation Area, I was delighted to add the Groove-billed Ani to my life list. The bird was sitting in a small willow tree along a brushy fencerow. My first thought was the date was unusual for a grackle to be perched alone. But when I focused my binoculars on the bird, I knew at once that this bird was no grackle.

The bird was no more than 25 feet from me. When it moved to a more exposed perch I saw the huge puffin bill-shaped beak. I also noted the long floppy tail that the bird wagged up and down. I studied the bird for 10 to 12 minutes. It seemed quite unafraid and, by moving slowly, I observed the ani from several different angles. When the bird was in bright sunshine, I saw, with 8x binoculars, the grooves on the bill.

Finally the ani uttered several peculiar double-syllable call notes and flew to a tree 30 or 40 feet down the trail. After perching for several minutes, it flew into an area of heavier undergrowth and, although I could hear the bird call for several more minutes, it was lost from view.

As soon as I returned to my car, I checked my notes with Peterson's new field guide and with the new National Geographic guide. At home I compared the bird's call with Peterson's recordings of the Groove-billed Ani and was convinced that this was the correct species.

The weather turned bad the next day, with rain and strong winds. Despite searching the next day and during the following week, I failed to find the ani again. The sighting followed 2 days of very strong southerly winds that probably aided the ani on its northward flight.

A search of the literature reveals that this record is only the fifth reported sighting of this species in South Dakota. Of these previous records, 2 were in the 1982 fall, 1 in Pierre (Larsen, SDBN 35:7) and 1 in Huron (Johnson, SDBN 35:8).--Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523.

BARRED OWL NEAR MADISON--On 25 February 1985, a Dakota State College student found a Barred Owl dead on SD Highway 19, 0.5 miles south of the Buffalo Trading Post (17.5 miles south of Madison). The owl was found about 3 p.m. along the side of the road. The bird appeared to have died within the preceding hour or two. The owl is now in the Dakota State College Ornithology Collection.--Robert Buckman, Dakota State College, Madison 57042.

BOOK REVIEW

by George Prisbe
Aberdeen 57401

Tunncliffe's Birds: Measured Drawings by Tunncliffe RA edited by Noel Cusa. 1984, Little, Brown and Co.: Boston and Toronto. 160 pp. \$49.95.

Critical reviews, regardless of the artistic discipline being considered, should always be viewed as subjective analysis. Hopefully, subjectivity is tempered by an air of fairness. One way to strive for being fair is to consider the concept of artistic intention. In *Tunncliffe's Birds*, the artist's intentions are apparent. As the subtitle notes, these works are measured drawings (work executed with the aid of dividers) produced as reference material. This fact immediately indicates what the viewer is to expect from these studies. Tunncliffe referred to these works as his "stock in trade." The art depicted in this book was never intended

for public exhibition and must be evaluated from that standpoint.

The viewer must overcome an initial psychological reaction when first seeing this publication's unique color plates. These works were created from dead specimens, and many of the drawings obviously depict that state. Also these drawings are not posed with natural settings, but simply laid out on a flat nonrepresentational background, which adds a stark atmosphere. The most unnerving, rather morbid, although not necessarily dominating or distracting, aspect of the plates is the artist's investigations of select areas of avian anatomy. The visual effect of individual corpse parts, such as wings, feet, and heads, creates an appearance of dismemberment.

Several vignettes do contain very lifelike images. Together with the viewer's imagination, life is suggested by Tunnickliffe's use of angular, expressive lines that imply motion, reflected light in the subjects' eyes, and the active, lively quality of pencil marks and brush strokes. The majority of the plates, however, are composites of detached anatomical parts, and entire bird forms, some suggesting life and others quite obviously dead. This dichotomy, all in one image area, can be distracting and the artists' intentions could become ambiguous to the viewer.

The artist's technical proficiency is beyond reproach. The "RA" in the book's subtitle denotes Tunnickliffe's inclusion in the prestigious Royal Academy. Tunnickliffe's versatility and sensitivity are apparent in many of the plates, which are mixed-media creations, employing whatever media are appropriate for the accurate rendering of the subject. Even in these studies, never intended for public viewing, the artist displays his integrity and professionalism by developing interesting compositions of form and negative space.

I did take exception to some plates. A few of the compositions seemed at bit contrived or crowded. At times the use of flat painting areas and ink line were a little heavy-handed. I noted one ornithological error: the scientific name of the American Kestrel is given to the European Sparrow Hawk, a mistake that indicates a careless American, rather than European, editor.

These criticisms are marginal, however, since these works were intended as resource materials; and this book's true value is as resource material. Just as these paintings were intended to increase Tunnickliffe's understanding of birds, we too can benefit. This book contains a rare glimpse

into an artist's sketchbook. We observe the development of forms and the manipulations of media that help increase our understanding of bird form, texture, and detail. To paraphrase the artist, we are more likely to see what is to be seen if we know what we ought to see. Tunnickliffe's studies afford us the opportunity to view birds from angles and vantage points that in life are but fleeting glimpses. We more fully appreciate the complexity of the shape, color, and pattern that comprise all birds. Therefore this book would be at home in the library of any artist, naturalist, or birder.

BOOK REVIEW

by Carolyn Hull Sieg

Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station
Rapid City SD 57701

Mammals of the Northern Great Plains by J. Knox Jones, Jr., David M. Armstrong, Robert S. Hoffmann, and Clyde Jones. 1983, University of Nebraska Press: Lincoln. 379 pp \$32.50.

Mammals of the Northern Great Plains is an excellent contribution to the literature base for the mammals of South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska. The book is printed on high quality, glossy paper, and includes over 200 line drawings and photographs. The text is well written and easy to read. The first 32 pages are devoted to brief descriptions of historical background, to the organization of the book, and to topics relevant to mammalogy (environment, vegetation, physiography, soils, climate, regional mammalian communities, and zoogeography). The next section is a key to orders of mammals on the northern Great Plains, followed by a checklist. The remainder of the book is a description of all native and introduced mammals. Information includes species names (including the derivation), distribution, description (often including a black and white photograph and simplified drawings), natural history (habitats, diet, reproductive behavior, molts, etc.), and selected references. The book concludes with a 10-page glossary of commonly used terms, addenda, literature cited, and an index (by both common and scientific names).

Mammals of the Northern Great Plains is an excellent reference for high school and college students, interested novices, and professional biologists. The strongest points of this book are its readability and interesting facts. I par-

ticularly enjoyed reading the name derivations. For example, *Reithrodontomys* (harvest mice) is a compound of Greek roots meaning "channel-toothed mouse." Another strong point is the mention of other good references. The introductory sections are, by design, very brief, and so references to other sources will be useful to those readers interested in learning more. However, weak points of the book will at times frustrate professional biologists. The authors are not always objective, particularly in regard to animal damage control. For example, some studies have shown that proper management of cattle may or may not control numbers of prairie dogs, particularly on short grass sites. Also, some experts may disagree that the best control of coyote problems is "careful disposal of dead poultry and livestock." Source citations were deliberately omitted from the text to improve its readability, but for most biologists references would greatly improve the book's credibility. Other limitations are the "deliberately conservative" range maps (e.g., Gray Squirrel's) and sometimes too-simplified line drawings (skull illustrations are provided only for some species and are generally reduced to outlines of one view with little detail). For more scientific information on mammal identification and distribution, readers should refer to Hall's *Mammals of North America* (1981).

But, all things considered, I enjoyed the book and recommend it to both novices and professionals. I am not sure why the authors limited their discussion to Nebraska and North and South Dakota. Perhaps someday they will write a revised edition that includes the remainder of the northern Great Plains. Until that time, this edition will be of value to anyone interested in the mammals of these 3 states.

THE 1984/85 CHRISTMAS COUNTS
compiled by Dan Tallman
Northern State College
Aberdeen 57401

- Aberdeen. 16 December 1984. Compiler: Everett Montgomery.
12 observers. +20 to +29°, trace snow, S wind 20-30
mph.
- Brookings. 15 December 1984. Compiler: Nelda Holden. +20
to 34°, no snowcover, S wind 3-11 mph.
- Deuel Co. 29 December 1984. Compiler: Bruce Harris. 10
observers. -10 to 0°, little snow cover, moderate
winds.
- Hot Springs. 29 December 1984. Compiler: Richard Peterson.
12 observers. 0 to +34°, 2-4 inches snowcover.

- Pierre. 16 December 1984. Compiler: Bob Summerside. 28 observers.
- Platte Creek. 30 December 1984. Compiler: Mark Skadsen. 2 observers.
- Rapid City. Compiler: Esther Serr.
- Sand Lake. 18 December 1984. Compiler: Kathleen Verdon. 3 observers. -15 to 4°, 1-3 inches snowcover, NW wind 3-7 mph.
- Sioux Falls. 22 December 1984. Compiler: Gil Blankespoor. 16 observers. +13 to 30°, no wind.
- Spearfish. 30 December 1984. Compiler: Dan Bjerke. 6 observers. -7 to +4°.
- Waubay. 27 December 1984. Compiler: John Getman.
- Watertown. 30 December 1984. Compiler: Bruce Harris. 13 observers. -8 to +5°, light snow, 4 inches accumulation.
- Wilmot. 23 December 1984. Compiler: Bruce Harris. 8 observers. -10 to +5°, 5-7 inches of snowcover, wind 5-10 mph.
- Yankton. 22 December 1984. Compiler: Willis Hall. 12 observers. 8 to 41°, 0-4 inches snowcover. SE and NE winds, 0-4 mph.

	ABERDEEN	BROOKINGS	DEUEL CO.	HOT SPRINGS	PIERRE	PLATTE CREEK	RAPID CITY	SAND LAKE	SIoux FALLS	SPEARFISH	WAUBAY	WATER TOWN	WILMOT	YANKTON	TOTAL
Snow Goose					1		1		1						3
Canada Goose			6		12052	457	80		15	16					12625
Wood Duck							1								1
Green-winged Teal							20								20
Mallard				69	4480		1195	3456	238	140				1111	10689
Northern Pintail							1								1
Gadwall							100								100
American Wigeon							74								74
Redhead							4								4
Ring-necked Duck					1										1
Greater Scaup					1										1
Lesser Scaup					2		1								3
Common Goldeneye					48		105		10					34	187
Sparrow's Goldeneye							1								1
Bufflehead							4								4
Hooded Merganser					2										2
Common Merganser					49		10							31	80
Red-breasted Merganser					1										1
Bald Eagle				11	26	3		3		5				40	88
Northern Harrier			1	1			1								3
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1		3								4

	ABERDEEN	BROOKINGS	DEUEL CO.	HOT SPRINGS	PIERRE	PLATTE CREEK	RAPID CITY	SAND LAKE	STOULX FALLS	SPEARFISH	WABAY	WATERTOWN	WILLMOT	YANKTON	TOTAL
Cooper's Hawk		1		1											2
Northern Goshawk		2				1	1					1			5
Accipiter sp.														1	1
Buteo sp.										1					1
Red-tailed Hawk				1	4	2	5		10	2				15	39
Ferruginous Hawk				1			1								2
Rough-legged Hawk			1	1	2	1	4		11	1	1	1	1	1	24
Golden Eagle				7	7	1	5		4						24
American Kestrel	1				1				3		1			11	17
Merlin		1			2		1								4
Prairie Falcon						1		2		1					4
Gray Partridge		6						7							13
Ring-necked Pheasant	81	8		31	81	56		52	19	8	15	4	18	29	402
Greater Prairie Chicken					10										10
Sharp-tailed Grouse				5	39					115					159
Wild Turkey				81			110			11					202
American Coot							1								1
Common Snipe							2			10					12
Ring-billed Gull					10										10
Herring Gull					39										39
Rock Dove	176	42	11	257	109	7	411	28	96	78	37	93	78	76	1499
Mourning Dove		6	1	1										2	10
Eastern Screech-Owl			1				1							1	3
Great Horned Owl	8	8	2	4	17	1	2	8	9	3	5	7	2	9	85
Snowy Owl								2			1				3
Barred Owl													1		1
Long-eared Owl											1		1		2
Short-eared Owl			1		2			1			5				9
Belted Kingfisher							13		3	5			1	5	27
Red-bellied Woodpecker									1				1	3	5
Downy Woodpecker	15	43		8	19	3	29	42	21	6	20	5	19	27	257
Hairy Woodpecker	6	7		7	19	1	32		8		11	4	7	9	111
Northern Flicker	1	3	1	10	4		16		7	5	1			23	71
Horned Lark	2	21	6		173	16	7		5		100	12	325	4	671
Blue Jay	9	37	13	21		2	75	5	18	20	2	5	12	24	243
Pinyon Jay				210			51								261
Black-billed Magpie				26	12		75			7				2	122
Common Crow		29		72	4		86	208	63		3	6	6	252	723
Black-capped Chickadee	43	168	31	164	77	8	253	3	194	109	73	39	44	112	1318
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	6	1	108	3		69		4	5		8		1	209
White-breasted Nuthatch	11	41	11	12	26	1	23		40	4	31	12	17	9	238
Pygmy Nuthatch				2			1								3
Brown Creeper		6		2	2		8			1			1	8	28
Canyon Wren				1			6			2					9
Winter Wren							1								1
American Dipper										2					3
Golden-crowned Kinglet		6			6		2					4			18
Townsend's Solitaire		1		134	1		27			13					176
American Robin		2		734	245	1	8		1	108				272	1371
Northern Mockingbird	1														1
Brown Thrasher		2													2
Bohemian Waxwing		10		103	104		1743			204			15		2179
Cedar Waxwing	5	42		200	89		12								348
Northern Shrike	1	2	1	2	5	3	4	1	3	1	5		4		32
Shrike sp.														2	2
European Starling	262	156	26		60		269	2	346	73	141	57	168	371	1931

	ABERDEEN	BROOKINGS	DEUEL CO.	HOT SPRINGS	PIERRE	PLATTE CREEK	RAPID CITY	SAND LAKE	SIOUX FALLS	SPEARFISH	WABAY	WATERLOO	WILLMOT	YANKTON	TOTAL
Northern Cardinal			1						5			1	1	19	27
Rufous-sided Towhee														2	2
Tree Sparrow		57	5	15	23	80	198	266	597	138	93		25	446	1343
Song Sparrow										1				7	6
White-throated Sparrow				1										1	2
Harris' Sparrow		2				2				1			2	4	11
Dark-eyed Junco				209							4				213
Slate-colored Junco	7	137	9		49	19	194		146	30		9	11	97	738
Oregon Junco	1	1	1			3	26		1	5		2	8		48
White-winged Junco							339			67					406
Lapland Longspur			4		3								3		10
Snow Bunting		4000			3		350					1350	2138		7841
Red-winged Blackbird	1		1	2	25		1	66	1					35	132
Yellow-headed Blackbird								12							12
Rusty Blackbird		1	11				5	40			5				62
Brewer's Blackbird		1						74							75
Common Grackle	1	2			31		2	5			1	6		1	49
Brown-headed Cowbird		3			1				1						5
Blackbird sp.													1	13	14
Pine Grosbeak	4										6		6		16
Purple Finch					2		2								4
Cassin's Finch							2								2
Red Crossbill	18	22		195	23		45			7		54			354
Common Redpoll		99	75	60	6		37	16		12	1697	12	56		2070
Hoary Redpoll											4				4
Pine Siskin	235	149	14	68	2	16	178		101	61		202	22	74	1122
American Goldfinch	9	15	1	9	53	13	78		7	54	75	4		43	361
Evening Grosbeak	5		1	25			583			448	6				1068
House Sparrow	1054	2396	275	114	795	281	1054	150	402	209	400	347	245	46	7768
total individuals	1961	3541	4512	2986	18847	983	7700	4591	25112	2076	2741	2242	3239	3273	61203
total forms	26	39	29	43	53	26	67	23	31	44	27	25	31	42	106

THE 1984/85 WINTER SEASON

by Bruce Harris

Box 605

Clear Lake SD 57226

After 45-60 degree weather on the 5th and 6th, December in the northeast was colder than normal with much wind but only about 7 inches of snowcover. In the southcentral part of the state, weather was mild, with only about 12 inches of snow all winter (Steffen). But, in the northwest, snow was deep with very cold temperatures (Hinds). January saw below normal precipitation in most of the state and normal temperatures. February began very cold and ended mildly. Snow was gone in most of the state by the end of February.

Observers cited in this report are: Leon J. Anderson (LJA); Ralph L. Bryant (RLB); Barbara Bernstein (BB); Ross Baker (RB); James L. Cole (JLC); Wynn Eakins (WE); Mike H. Getman (MHG); John M. Gilman (JMG); Kenneth Graupmann (KG); Willis Hall (WH); Bruce K. Harris (BKH); Ervin Hinderaker (EH); David J. Holden (DJH); Augie Hoeger (AH); Hot Springs Bird Club (HSBC); Kenneth H. Husmann (KHH); James W. Johnson (JWJ); Karen Kronner (KK); Dennis L. Lengkeek (DLL); Buell Luce (BL); James D. McLaird (JDM); Michael M. Melius (MMM); R. Osheim (RO); Margorie J. Parker (MJP); George Prisbe (GP); Melvin Prantner (MP); Richard A. Peterson (RAP); Robert G. Rogers (RGR); William A. Schultze (WAS); Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS); Mark S. Skadsen (MSS); Ayelyn Spevak (AS); Gary J. Stava (GJS); Galen L. Steffen (GLS); Dan A. Tallman (DAT); Juli E. Wilcox (JEW); Al Williamson (AW); Nat R. Whitney (NRW); Irma G. Weyler (IGW).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN--8 February, Yankton, cripple (WH, KK).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT--16 December, Waubay NWR, possible cripple (RLB).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON--12 and 13 November, Yankton Co., excellent photograph showing both night-heron species (KK).

SNOW GOOSE--3 December, Turner Co., 80 (through 21 December, when remaining 6 were poached) (LJA).

CANADA GOOSE--4 December, Waubay NWR (RLB). 7 December, Big Stone Power Plant (RLB). Overwintered, Sand Lake NWR, 2 (WAS).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL--30 January, Rapid City, 8 (MMM).

MALLARD--Overwintered, Sand Lake NWR, 3500 (WAS). 10 February, Douglas Co., 1000 (MSS). 10 December, Turner Co., 250 (LJA).

NORTHERN PINTAIL--25 February, Yankton Co., possible migrant (LJA). See also CBC report.

GADWALL--25 February, Yankton Co. (LJA).

AMERICAN WIGEON--All winter, Rapid City, 4-5 (many observers). 26 January, Ft. Randall, 2 (DRS, MSS). 29 December-14 February, Yankton Co. (WH).

CANVASBACK--4 December, Yankton (WH).

REDHEAD--All winter, Yankton, a few (WH).

LESSER SCAUP--26 January, Ft. Randall Dam (DRS, MSS, et al.). 22 February, Pierre (KHH).

OLOSQUAW--1-6 December, Yankton, frozen on ice on latter date (WH).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE--Through winter, Rapid City (many observers)--up to 1 March when courting an unidentified female goldeneye (DAT, BKH, GP).

BUFFLEHEAD--All winter, Rapid City, 2-4 (many observers).

HOODED MERGANSER--26 January, Ft. Randall Dam (DRS, MSS, et al.). 19-28 February, Pierre, 2 (KHH, DAT, BKH, GP).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER--26 January, Ft. Randall Dam, male (DRS, MSS, et al.).

RUDDY DUCK--1 December, Yankton, 10 (WH).

BALD EAGLE--3 January, 4 and 19 February, Sand Lake NWR (WAS). In SW, 3 on 60-mile raptor survey (RAP, AW). 20 January, Pierre, 20 (KHH). 8 and 18 February, Lawrence Co. (IGW). Gregory Co., 34 adults, 5 immatures on January eagle survey (GLS, DLL). 9 February, Fall River Co., 2 (RAP, MJP). 18 February, Fall River Co., 3 (RAP, MJP). 26 January, Ft. Randall Dam, 39 (DRS, MSS, et al.). In December, Waubay NWR (RLB, MHG).

NORTHERN HARRIER--29 December, Deuel Co., first winter record for county (GJS, WE, BKH). December, Waubay NWR (RLB). In SW, 3 on 60-mile raptor survey (RAP, AW).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK--More reports than usual, including Fall River Co., 2 (RAP); Custer Co. (MJP); Sioux Falls (AH); Rapid City (MMM), 3 on CBC; Gregory Co. (GLS).

COOPER'S HAWK--Brookings CBC (DJH) and Hot Springs CBC. 4 and 18 December, Watertown, near birdfeeder (AS). 1 December, Gregory Co (GLS). 26 February, Faulk Co., 2 (MMM). A late report: 9 October, Huron, 1 at birdbath (JWJ).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK--More reports than usual. See CBC reports. 5 January, Edmunds Co., 2 immatures chasing Pine Grosbeaks (DAT). Reported also from Gregory (3), Yankton, and Lincoln Co., and Waubay NWR.

RED-TAILED HAWK--4 January, Brookings (KHH). 13 January, Lincoln Co., 2 (MSS).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK--10 January, only 1 on 60-mile raptor survey in 3 SW Co. (RAP, AW). 10-14 January, Gregory Co., 4 on eagle survey (GLS). Reports also from Miner and Hughes Co.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK--Not common except in SW, where on 10 January, 24 observed on 60-mile raptor survey (RAP, AW); see also Spearfish CBC. Also reported from Deuel, Codington, Douglas, Day, and Brule Co.

GOLDEN EAGLE--10 January, 11 on 60-mile raptor survey in 3 SW Co. (RAP, AW). 9 February, Fall River Co., 8 (HSBC). Gregory Co., 52 during January eagle survey (GLS, DLL). Reports also from Haakon, Charles Mix, Perkins, and Yankton Co.

AMERICAN KESTREL--6 February, Brookings, 1 at feeder (RB). Present all winter in SE (LJA).

MERLIN--Brookings CBC (DJH). 6 January, Pierre (KHH).

PEREGRINE FALCON--2 January, Charles Mix Co. (DRS). 16 February, Jackson Co., immature (KG).

PRAIRIE FALCON--Reports from Stanley, Jackson, Fall River, Miner, Charles Mix (chasing pigeons, DRS), Custer, and Sully Co.

AMERICAN COOT--1-9 December, Yankton, up to 28 (WH). Lake Andes CBC.

COMMON SNIBE--Fall River Co. (RAP).

RING-BILLED GULL--16 December, Sioux Falls, 3 (AH). See also CBC reports.

GLAUCOUS GULL--5 December, Yankton, perhaps first adult seen in state. 8 December, Yankton, 2 immature (WH).

MOORING DOVE--29 December, Deuel Co. (BKH). 2 December, Day Co. (MHG). See also Brookings CBC.

GREAT HORNED OWL--12 February, Lawrence Co., Arctic race (IGW). 26 February, Davison Co., on nest (LJA).

SNOWY OWL--Not common this winter. Reports from Yankton (2), Waubay, Hutchinson, Charles Mix, and Brown Co.

BARRED OWL--23 December, Roberts Co., Wilmot CBC (BB, MP).

LONG-EARED OWL--CBC at Wilmot and Waubay, the latter into January.

SHORT-EARED OWL--29 December, Deuel Co. (BKH et al.). Waubay CBC. Also reported from Sand Lake NWR and Pierre.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL--26-28 February, Fall River Co., 1 calling (RAP).

BELTED KINGFISHER--19 December, Minnehaha Co. (LJA). 23 December, Hartford Beach State Park (BKH, DRS, MSS). 29 and 31 December, Deuel Co. (JLC). 26 January, Ft. Randall Dam (DRS, MSS). See CBC report.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER--23 February, Yankton (WH, JEW).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER--See CBC report.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER--19 January, Yankton Co., immature (WH).

HAIKY WOODPECKER--Apparently down in numbers in some areas.

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER--18 February, Custer Co., 6 (RAP, MJP)

RED-BREADED NUTHATCH--A fair to good flight year. 11 December, Watertown, 5 (BKH, JMG). 13 January, Newton Hills State Park, 6 (MSS). Reported on most CBC.

PYGMY NUTHATCH--Only 3-4 years ago, this species was considered rather rare in the Black Hills but it has apparently increased in numbers or was much overlooked by birders because now it is regularly reported.

WINTER WREN--Rapid City CBC.

MARSH WREN--14 February, Fall River Co., 3 (RAP).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET--Good numbers in NE. 13 January, Newton Hills State Park, 3 (MSS). 1 December, Gregory Co., 3 (GLS). See CBC report.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD--25 January, Yankton, 5 (WH).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE--Good flight East River: 16 November, Beadle Co. (JWJ). 24 November and 18 December, Beadle Co. (RGR). 15 December, Brookings CBC (BKH et al.). 28 February, Kingsbury Co. (BKH). 16 and 23 February, Brown Co. (OAT, GP). See Hot Springs CBC.

AMERICAN ROBIN--Very few wintered in NE.

BROWN THRASHER--29 December, Gregory Co. (GLS). Brookings CBC.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING--Good flight in east but no unusual numbers; usual numbers in west. 30 December, Davison Co., 50 (RGR). 5 January and 25 February, Codington Co. (BKH). Jackson Co., 175 (KG). See CBC report.

NORTHERN SHRIKE--Normal flight year. Several reports of predation on Pine Siskins. Reported from Deuel, Day, Roberts, Brookings, Charles Mix, Jackson, Fall River, Hutchinson, Miner, and Turner Co.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER--1 December, Gregory Co. (GLS).

NORTHERN CARDINAL--More than usual in NE: see CBC report; but none in Brookings where normally found.

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE--10 February, Gregory Co. (GLS). Yankton CBC. December and January at Aberdeen birdfeeder (BL).

FIELD SPARROW--Late report: 18 November, Huron, at feeder (JWJ).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW--9 December, Fall River Co. (RAP). November-February, Yankton Co. (WH).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW--7 December, Brown Co. (DAT).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR--9 February, Douglas Co., 3000 (MSS). 10 January, Gregory Co., 1500 (DRS).

SNOW BUNTING--Many more than usual on several CBC.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK--Very few reports. 2 January, Edmunds Co. (MMM). 11 January, Gregory Co. (GLS).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD--Reports only from Day, Brown, Deuel, and Brookings Co.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD--See CBC report.

COMMON GRACKLE--Reported from Deuel, Codington, Day, Roberts, Brookings, Brown, Pennington, and Hughes Co.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD--25-29 December and 13 January, Sioux Falls, at feeder (MSS). Brookings CBC.

ROSY FINCH--19 January, SE Jackson Co., 50, further east than normal (KG). 5 Custer Co., 200 at 2 feeders, no further details (MJP).

PINE GROSBEAK--The best flight since the large invasion of 1977-78. 17-19 November, Beadle Co., early (JWJ). 29 December, Codington Co., 3 (EH). Waubay CBC, 6 and up to 30 later in season. 13 January, Newton Hills State Park (MSS). 23 December, Gregory Co., 2 (GLS). During season, Brown Co., 24 (DAT, GP). See also CBC report.

PURPLE FINCH--17 January, Codington Co., 1 (RO). Waubay, "numerous." Lake Andes CBC. Only reports for state: definitely not a Purple Finch year.

CASSIN'S FINCH--19 December, Fall River Co., 2 (RAP). 7 February, Fall River Co., 1 (RAP). 8 February, Fall River Co., 6 at feeder (AW). 24 February, Custer Co., 2 (MJP). Regular at Rapid City bird feeders.

HOUSE FINCH--9 December, Fall River Co., Hot Springs (RAP). Reported daily, Belle Fourche, up to 12 at feeder (IGW and see report last issue). A photo supplied by IGW was examined by the SDOU checklist committee, who, although they could not identify the bird in question, unanimously felt it was not a House Finch and probably a Cassin's Finch. However, in subsequent correspondence, IGW did supply field notes to support her identification of male House Finches. At this time we have no confirmed evidence that the House

Finch has invaded the Black Hills, although the species is apparently slowly expanding its range in South Dakota, especially in Fall River and Custer Co.

RED CROSSBILL--Good flight in east. 11 December and through the winter, Codrington Co., 50 (BKH). Also reported from Brown, Beadle, Brookings, Davison, and Minnehaha Co. Normal numbers reported from west.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL--The best flight since 1979-80. 30 December, Davison Co., 2 (RGR, JDM). 11 January, Roberts Co. 6 (BKH). 16 January, Codrington Co., 1 (BKH). 21 February, Codrington Co., 6 (BKH). 2 February, Minnehaha Co., 2 (MSS). All winter, Brown Co., 1 (GP).

COMMON REDPOLL--Quite common, with flocks up to over 100. Reported on 10 of 14 CBC and from Brookings, Roberts, Deuel, Day, Moody, Fall River, Sanborn, and Hutchinson Co. In Brown Co., redpolls were common in the countryside but quite irregular at local feeders, none banded by DAT.

HOARY REDPOLL--16 January, Day Co., 3 (BKH, KHH). Waboy CBC, 4 (DAT, GP). 16 February, Brown Co., 2 occasionally visited feeder, 1 banded 11 March and this bird last seen 16 March, a late date for this species (DAT).

PINE SISKIN--A major flight year: reported on all but 1 of 14 CBC. Codrington Co., 80 at feeder (AS). Brown Co., 300 banded in November, 600 banded December, 1303 banded during winter season (DAT).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH--Although reported on most CBC, not common this winter.

EVENING GROSBEAK--Not common this winter and in small numbers: 5 at Brookings, singles in Beadle Co., 6 on Day Co. CBC, 5 in Brown Co. Normal numbers in far west: see CBC report.



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