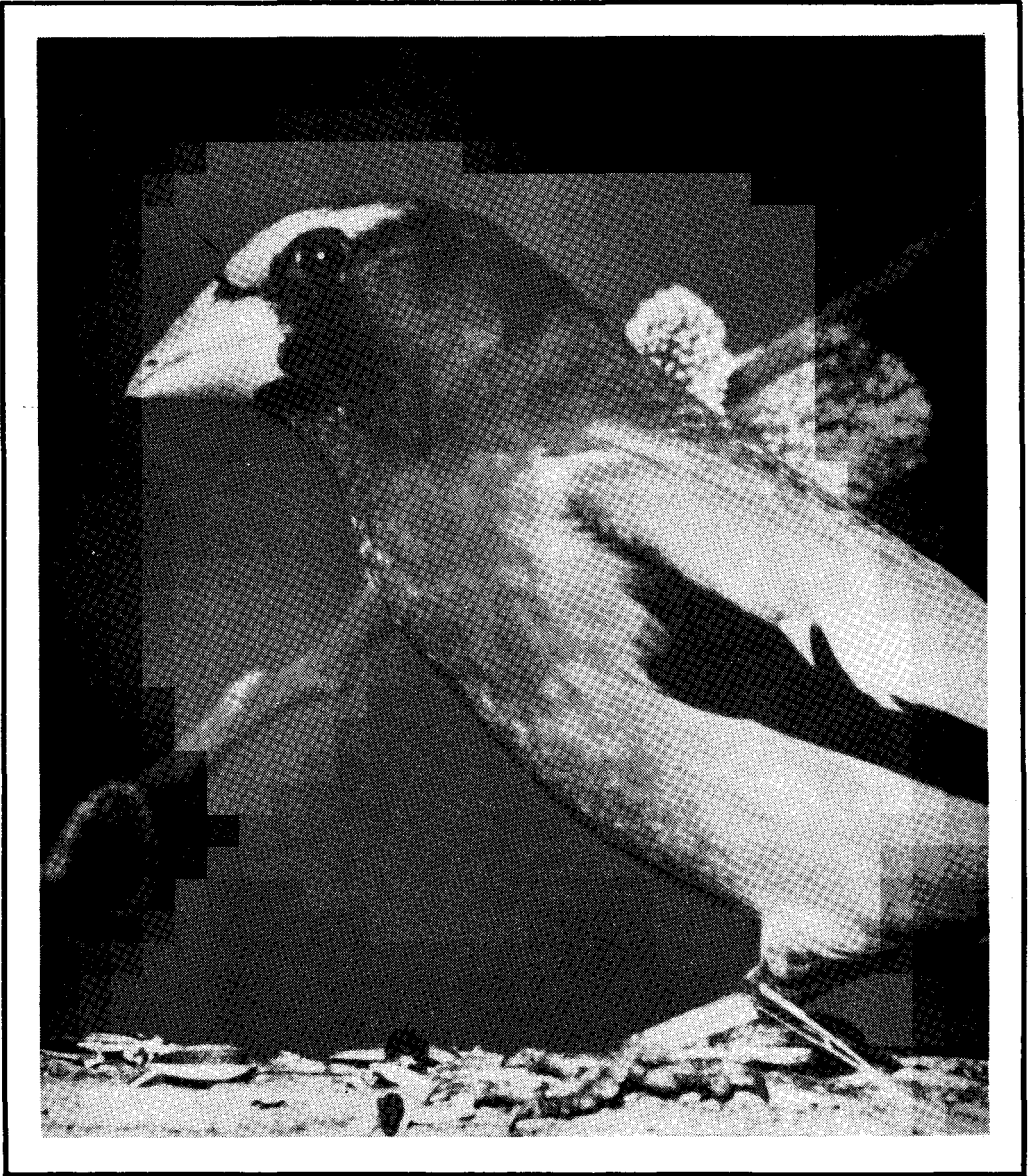


SOUTH DAKOTA  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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NOTES

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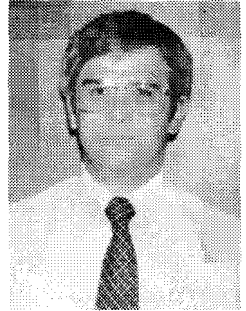
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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



The 1989 spring migration is well underway and the nesting season has begun. The transition from the silent winter days and nights, where only an occasional Horned Owl's hooting or Horned Lark flock's aerial chiming has changed into a multitude of bird calls. There doesn't seem to be enough time to see and do all that one wishes. To pursue our birding quests, we juggle and arrange our time to accommodate our occupations, families, leisures, and other community commitments. One of these quests is the atlas project, now in its second year. I've enjoyed starting on one atlas block and I've made plans to atlas several more days this spring. Now is the time for you to plan your atlas projects and check with your regional coordinator. Atlas-ing is a great activity--try it!

Due to people who did not take their responsibilities seriously, the 1989 ecological disaster in Prince William Sound, Alaska will affect that area for years. We have experienced a somewhat similar disaster in the Pierre area. This spring, at least seven Bald Eagles, one Golden Eagle, Canada Geese, and other birds and animals have succumbed to pesticide poisoning. We are assured by the agri-business community that authorized pesticide usage is safe, if handled properly. But anyone can purchase these pesticides and use them at his or her discretion. As an analogy, anyone can buy a firearm and use it as he or she may wish. If the firearm is illegally used, serious criminal consequences are likely to result. However, the illegal use of toxic pesticides rarely enters the judicial system and our complacency seems to tolerate such occurrences. Hey!--we just lost at least seven Bald Eagles, which is a sizable portion of our wintering flock. Apparently someone's disrespect for consequences and the law is responsible. If this person (s) shot those eagles, a tremendous public outcry would have put pressure to have the culprits brought to justice. What will be done with those who maliciously poisoned these magnificent birds? If pesticide poisoning is acceptable and normal, how long can our agriculture sustain us?

I've seen public pressure on the state to require our officials to perform their public service responsibilities. Destroying endangered and protected animal species is a serious crime. Idly sitting by and accepting the agri-business community's assurances will not resolve these problems. We should get involved by demanding justice. When justice prevails, individuals recognize that their actions demand responsibilities to our society and ecosystem. If any member wishes additional information, please contact me or SDOU Director and Environmental Issues Committee Chair, Michael Melius.

# THE WAUBAY BLUEBIRD TRAIL: 1988 BREEDING SEASON

By Dennis Skadsen  
RR Box 113, Grenville 57239

## Nesting

Eastern Bluebirds were first sighted on the refuge on 22 March 1988. Two nests were observed under construction on 17 April and contained full clutches by 29 April. These eggs hatched on or about 11 May, the young fledging around 30 May. The last young to fledge in 1988 left the nest during the first week of August. A total of 18 nest attempts were made in 1988, 11 fewer than the previous year. Only 9 of these nests successfully fledged young. A summary of all nesting and banding data is given in Table 1.

For the first time since I began management of the trail in 1986, Black-capped Chickadees used nest boxes, successfully fledging young from two nests. House Wrens continue to be regular nesters on the trail. Ten nests with eggs and/or young were observed on 15 July. Male wrens continue to be a problem for bluebirds. The wrens destroy bluebird nests during June and July when the wrens are most active in searching for suitable nesting cavities.

## Nest Failure

The extremely hot and dry weather of 1988 caused mortality among all species nesting on the trail. Temperatures in excess of 100° F forced incubating females out of the nest boxes, thereby abandoning eggs and young, which were later found dehydrated in the nests. Only one nest attempted after 26 June successfully fledged young bluebirds. Many young Tree Swallows also died in nests due to heat stress.

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Table 1. Bluebird nesting and banding data: 1988.

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Nest boxes used	13	Number of young fledged	32
Nesting attempts	18	Number of young banded	29
Successful	9	Unknown sex	7
Failed	9	Female	14
Reason for failure		Male	8
Wren predation	3	Number of Adults banded	9
Miscellaneous	2	Female	5
Weather	4	Male	4
Number of eggs laid	69	Estimated No. of	
Avg. No. eggs/clutch	4.2	bluebirds on Refuge	50
Number of eggs hatched	40		

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### Banding

Banding of adult and young bluebirds continued as previously described (SDBN 40:70-72). A summary of bluebird banding is given in Table 1. A banded female bluebird with a red auxiliary leg band was observed on 12 April but did not nest on the trail. This bird was banded as an adult in 1987. A male bluebird banded on 15 June 1987 was recaptured on 27 May 1988. This individual used the same nest box in both years. A total of 120 Tree Swallows were banded in 1988. Ten swallows banded in 1987 were recaptured on the trail in 1988.

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## GENERAL NOTES

CONTINUED BREEDING BY COMMON MERGANSERS IN PENNINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA. In *South Dakota Bird Notes* 39:37-38 (June 1987), we reported that Common Mergansers had bred along Rapid Creek in western Pennington Co. during the 1984-86 breeding seasons. The breeding activity continued in the 1987 and 1988 seasons. During 1987, in the Big Bend area of Rapid Creek near the Palmerton residence, two hens produced ducklings, as did two other hens at the Canyon Lake and Rapid Creek area on the west edge of Rapid City. In 1988, the number of breeding Common Mergansers increased. Three hens raised families along Rapid Creek near the Palmerton residence, approximately 7.5 miles west of Rapid City. At the same time, in the Canyon Lake and Rapid Creek area, four Common Merganser females hatched ducklings. Thus, during five consecutive breeding seasons, a small population of Common Mergansers seems to have established a pattern of regular reproduction in western Pennington Co. *L. M. Baylor, Ruth Palmerton, and Leighton Palmerton, 1941 Red Dale Drive, Rapid City 57702.*

MATING OF LIGHT AND DARK FERRUGINOUS HAWKS. On 9 April 1988, I was birding in an area east of Miranda in SE Faulk Co. I concentrated on hawk and owl nests for the Breeding Bird Atlas. I found two Ferruginous Hawk nests, bulky structures in stunted cottonwood and willow trees in mostly prairie habitat. The landowner drove up, described another nest, on the ground, on his land just east of Miranda.

I hiked to this site on 4 July 1988. Near the center of the section, on the highest hill, I found two nests. They were on the north and west-facing slopes, constructed of just a few sticks and cow chips. Both nests showed little sign of being used this year--no compaction or new nest material. But I did find old egg shells and parts of a skeleton from an earlier year.

As I surveyed the area, a calling adult Ferruginous Hawk flew overhead. I walked toward an anomalous black spot on a hillside to the southwest. As I got close, the "spot" rose and flew low to the west a short distance before landing. The bird was very black, with only some white on the tail and wings. By now two adults were circling overhead and calling. One

adult was a light phase Ferruginous, the other, a dark phase: underparts all dark but for the primaries, secondaries, and tail--not unlike a Turkey Vulture's pattern. As the dark Ferruginous circled, I caught a glimpse of white wing patches amidst the otherwise dark plumage of the upperparts.

I searched the hillside for a nest, discovered none, but found another young bird, yet unable to fly. When I approached, it fanned its wings and hissed but was unable to stand. It was such a dark brown, it appeared black, somewhat mottled with white in the wings and tail.

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Photograph of young dark phase Ferruginous Hawk.

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Apparently this pair of Ferruginous Hawks, one light and one dark, had raised two dark young. I was glad to see their nesting success, and that of other Ferruginous Hawks in Faulk Co., successful despite the stress of a very hot June. *Michael Meltus, HCR 89, Box 275, Hermosa 57744.*

**BARRED OWL INJURED IN ABERDEEN.** At approximately 7:00 am on Sunday, 17 December 1988, Aberdeen Police Sergeant Bill Rappe delivered an injured owl to my residence. The bird was discovered sitting on a street in the northeast section of town. One eye appeared milky when examined with a flashlight and the right wing was broken near the body. The owl probably hit either a wire or a car.

I did not immediately identify the bird. The owl resided in a large wire cage in my garage for several days, dining on road-killed deer and a con-

fiscated goose that was no longer needed as evidence. Bill Schultz of the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge stopped by and we positively identified the bird as a Barred Owl. The size, the dark eyes, and the combination of horizontal and vertical barring made identification quite simple. Schultz took the owl to the refuge for later transport to Deb Wall's rehabilitation clinic in Pierre.

Although scattered records of this species exist, especially during the winter, from eastern South Dakota, to the best of my knowledge this record is the first report of a Barred Owl from Brown County.--Bill Antonides, *Wildlife Conservation Officer, SD Game, Fish and Parks, Aberdeen 57401.*

**SKADSEN 1988 BANDING REPORT.** This report covers birds banded under permit 22127 during 1988. I banded 677 individuals of 41 species. Except for Eastern Bluebirds and 120 Tree Swallows, which were banded on the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, all birds were banded where I reside, at the Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area, Day Co., SD. A Slate-colored Junco (#1780-98888) banded on 30 March 1987 at Pickerel Lake was recovered on 4 April 1988 near Prescott, MN. A Common Redpoll originally banded on 25 February 1987 was recaptured at the same location on 5 March 1988.

Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Yellow Warbler	3	
Killdeer	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	8	02
Downy Woodpecker	1	Chipping Sparrow	3	
Purple Martin	2	Clay-colored Sparrow	3	
Tree Swallow	127	Fox Sparrow	1	
Barn Swallow	1	Song Sparrow	1	
Blue Jay	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	12	
American Crow	4	Swamp Sparrow	1	
Black-capped Chickadee	18	White-throated Sparrow	12	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	White-crowned Sparrow	3	
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	Harris' Sparrow	32	
House Wren	3	Dark-eyed Junco	175	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Red-winged Blackbird	2	
Eastern Bluebird	38	Common Grackle	48	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	2	
American Robin	35	Orchard Oriole	2	
Gray Catbird	6	Purple Finch	32	
Brown Thrasher	4	Common Redpoll	36	
Cedar Waxing	1	Pine Siskin	45	
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	24	
Nashville Warbler	2			

*Dennis Skadsen, RR Box 113, Grenville 57239.*

**TRUMPETER SWAN ON SIOUX FALLS CBC.** On 17 December 1988, my son Mark and I recorded a single Trumpeter Swan on an open water stretch of the Big Sioux River just NW of the town of Brandon in Minnehaha Co., South Dakota. We observed the bird in the middle of the af-

ternoon, in good light, at approximately 20 meters. We especially noted that the bill was all black and that the bird carried an orange-red flag on its left wing. We did not hear the bird call, so that identification as a Trumpeter Swan was probable but not positive. Later I determined that this individual was part of the Minnesota effort to reestablish Trumpeter Swans. The bird's relatively tame behavior made sense in this context. *Gil Blankespoor, Augustana College, Sioux Falls.*

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK HARASSES FEEDING STATION.** During the late afternoon of 1 February 1989, an immature *Accipiter* was harassing birds at my feeding station. On 2 February, the high temperature in Spearfish was -15°F. Many birds were at the feeder all day. At 3:30 pm, I heard a loud squawking near the feeder. I saw that a hawk had captured a starling in a nearby lilac thicket. The raptor, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, was more than twice as long as the starling and had a definite square-tipped tail. The starling continued struggling for about five minutes, but the hawk proceeded to pluck it anyway. When the starling ceased struggling, the hawk began feeding. Meanwhile, goldfinches and other starlings began feeding less than 10 feet away. The hawk fed for about 45 minutes before resting in the lilac for another 10 minutes. Finally it flew north along Spearfish Creek. After the hawk departed, I examined the starling remains. All the flesh from the back and legs were eaten, along with all the entrails. The breast meat was not touched. *Doug Backlund, 515 Mason, Spearfish 57783.*

**NORTHEAST GOES FINCHLESS.** This past winter left people all across the eastern United States wondering where the birds were. Feeders went unoccupied and bags of seed bought in anticipation of flocks of winged guests gathered dust in garages and back hallways. But, for the first time ever, North American ornithologists can answer "where are the birds?" According to data compiled for Project FeederWatch, a continent-wide bird feeder survey run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory, many birds appear to have stayed north this winter in the boreal forests of Canada. However, bird numbers at feeders across the continent's midsection and in the west were on par with last winter.

The biggest gap in feeder attendance occurred among "winter finches." This group includes such popular feeder visitors as the Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Purple Finch. Both Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins showed decreases of 75-100% at feeders in the northeastern and southeastern United States, where last winter flocks of hundreds stretched the bird seed budgets of many families. These decreases, however, were offset by dramatic increases in the numbers of Pine Siskins in the northwestern U.S. and Canada and of Evening Grosbeaks in the northern Great Plains.

"Both siskins and grosbeaks are boom or bust species that wander nomadically across the continent, stopping wherever food is plentiful," says Erica Dunn, coordinator of Project FeederWatch. "Last winter was a boom year for them across the entire eastern third of North America. This winter they have definitely stayed north in Canada, where there appears to



have been an excellent supply of the tree seeds they feed upon. The relatively mild, snowless winter experienced in much of the East also probably contributed to these birds remaining farther north than in other years."

According to Dunn, "Last winter there were enough siskins for an average of seven to be counted at every bird feeder in North America throughout the entire winter. But what a difference a year makes. In the northeast, a few people who were entertaining flocks of over 300 siskins every day last winter had none this year."

With some surveys estimating that 80 million people in the United States feed birds, the presence or absence of these winter finches attracts a great deal of attention. And, with annual birdseed sales now topping \$1 billion, winter finches even produce economic repercussions for seed companies and farmers.

Project FeederWatch is already enlisting participants to help monitor feeder birds in the winter of 1989-1990. Participants pay a \$9 annual fee to cover the cost of data forms, newsletters, and postage, and must be able to identify the common birds at their feeder. To include the birds at your feeders, write Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; or call 607-254-2414. *Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.*

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS: VOL 4, DIURNAL RAPTORS (PART 1 AND 2).** Yale University Press: New Haven and London: 1988. Hardbound. Each part \$40.00. (Part 1, 433 pp; Part 2, 465 pp).

Not since Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey* has any publication covered the natural history of raptors as extensively as the latest volumes of *Handbook of North American Birds*. Volume 4, Part 1, covers New World Condors and Vultures, Osprey, kites, Bald Eagles and allies, Accipiters, harrier, and *Buteo* allies. Part 2 concludes *Buteos* and continues with Golden Eagle, Crested Caracara, and Falcons.

A book of this caliber, unlike most field guides (which merely describe basic plumages), goes into considerable detail describing the birds in each species account. Definitive basic plumage, molts, eye color, natal and juvenile plumages, color phases, and albinism are all discussed in great detail, along with measurements and weights of adults, juveniles, and subspecies. All these data make the book a valuable source of information for banders and researchers. Other subjects covered include field identification, voice, habitat, distribution, migration, banding status, reproduction, survival, habits, and breeding and winter ranges. Numerous line drawings illustrate the species described along with some of the birds' be-

havioral traits. The accounts, by both Palmer and a number of contributing authors, are clearly written.

Minor discrepancies inevitably creep into a text of this scope. Most notable to me were the range maps for the Swainson's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. The breeding range shown for the Swainson's Hawk does not include northeastern South Dakota, where the bird is quite common. Sharp-shinned Hawks are depicted as having a breeding range extending well into northeastern South Dakota, where the species may have bred historically but not in the last few decades. I was also disappointed at the lack of color plates, which illustrated the first three volumes of the series.

Twenty of the 41 species described in the text are regular breeders or have been sighted in South Dakota, making these books a valuable reference for resident birders interested in raptors. At \$40.00 a volume, these books may be considered too expensive to place on the average birder's bookshelf but, nevertheless, I highly recommend the purchasing of these volumes. *Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.*

**BIRD WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE** by Virginia C. Holmgren. Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola NY. 1972. 216 pp Softbound.

In this book, the author invites the reader on a bird walk to identify birds mentioned in the Bible. However, this walk is not just a simple stroll through the pages of the Holy Book, but a scientific field trip that involves serious Bible study and an investigation of ornithological and historical information. To gain the most from this venture, you should be prepared with your favorite version of the Bible and also a field book to identify birds. The text has no photographs or illustrations to help identify the Bible's birds, but the author paints helpful word pictures, using familiar birds and their actions to describe birds of biblical times and lands.

Quite often, when I read a book, I ignore the glossary. That would be a serious mistake in the case of this text. In essence, this book is a glossary, introduced briefly by three chapters and followed by several appendices. However, the glossary is more than mere definitions and bird identifications. In an easy to read, informal style, the author presents both scientific and anecdotal information relating to birds and their place in the Bible. Included are not only the many species of birds mentioned in the Bible, but also references to those biblical passages that allude to bird activities, such as flight. Descriptions of birds and their physiology are clearly accurate and yet presented so that the lay person gains new insight. For instance, the author observes that the Hebrew word for vultures is "watchers," or "dark watchers," surely a fitting name for this kind of bird. When birds mentioned in the Bible don't appear in North America, the author relates the species to the nearest equivalent or to the family that will help us picture the bird in question. The final appendix presents a checklist of scientifically classified birds found in biblical lands.

Anyone wishing to learn about the birds of the Bible could find helpful information about birds in a quality Bible Dictionary, but wouldn't find the reading nearly as interesting nor as complete as in this text. Where a

Bible dictionary gives you a paragraph on the sparrow, this text devotes over five pages to these small birds.

The reader who is more oriented to science may find it interesting to learn that Birds of Abomination are not birds to be hated, but rather those simply not to be eaten. These raptors have the potential of carrying disease and are therefore "unfit for cook pots."

Clearly the author is a person of deep faith as well as a bird lover. Her biblical knowledge is demonstrated by her comparison of many Bible translations. She works with 12 English versions and is conversant with the significant Latin, Hebrew, Greek and Syrian texts. She gives evidence of familiarity with biblical scholarship in her discussion of how the original texts can be distorted by translators. Her frequent and appropriate quotes of the Old and New Testaments, and even the less familiar Apocrypha, show that the author is more than a casual reader of the Bible.

I found the historical information in this text to be interesting. The author shows how bird names developed. Probably birds were first identified by color words, such as yellow birds; then probably by activity, habitat, and song. We are reminded that the classification of animals and birds is a rather late development. The basic system was established by Carl Linnaeus in 1758, and accepted by the scientific community at the late date of 1889.

The author often takes to the pulpit to preach the causes of conservation and ecological concern. Holmgren points to the Old Testament prophet's warnings of ecological disaster caused by God's wrath over the sinful ways of humanity, specifically citing Jeremiah's vision of a world without birds or beasts.

This text would make a valuable reference work for both the Bible student and the bird lover. *Stacy Richards, Northern State University, Aberdeen 57401.*

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## THE 1988-89 WINTER SEASON

compiled by Dennis Skadsen  
RR Box 113, Grenville 57239

Bruce Harris summed up the winter season by exclaiming it to be the most mediocre winter for birds that he could remember in South Dakota. Most other observers would probably agree with that statement. The season began with a mild December, which helped hold waterfowl and gulls, especially at Yankton. January's temperatures were well above normal, making one wonder why more species did not attempt to overwinter. Many observers reported low numbers of the usual winter species, such as Red-breasted Nuthatches, kinglets, juncos, American Tree Sparrows, Pine Siskins, and redpolls. Northern Flickers, robins, and meadowlarks should also have been more common than reported. West River observers noted the scarcity of raptors and made no reports of Bohemian Waxwings. Temperatures took a sudden nose dive in February, during the "arctic express" that lasted half the month. Several records for all time low temper-

atures were broken. Much needed precipitation was received in the later half of February, especially in the northeast, helping to alleviate the effects of the 1988 drought. Was the poor season due to the drought? Possibly a poor food crop or nesting season kept the bird numbers lower than normal.

Highlights for the season include an Iceland Gull observed at Gavin's Point Dam, a first state record if accepted by the Rare Bird Records Committee, a wintering Winter Wren and White-throated Sparrow near Spearfish, and a Hoary Redpoll in Aberdeen.

Abbreviations used in this report include: SLNWR = Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge; observers cited are:

Doug C. Backlund (DCB)	Michael Melius (MMM)	B. J. Rose (BJR)
Ken Graupmann (KG)	Ernest Miller (EM)	William Schultze (WAS)
Willis Hall (WH)	E. Montgomery (ECM)	Dan A. Tallman (DAT)
Bruce K. Harris (BKH)	Marge J. Parker (MJP)	Dennis Skadsen (DRS)
David J. Hilley (DJH)	Richard Peterson (RAP)	Rose VanSickle (RVS)
Jan Kieckhefer (JK)	D. George Prisbe (DGP)	Steve VanSickle (SVS)
Lester R. Lauritzen (LRL)	Bob Rogers (BR)	

Western Grebe--9 December, Stanley Co., Oahe Dam (DAT)

Tundra Swan--Madison CBC.

Trumpeter Swan--Sioux Falls CBC

Snow Goose--6 January, Lake Co., 8 (BKH).

Green-winged Teal--9 December, Stanley Co., Oahe Dam (DAT). Yankton Co., 18 wintered (WH).

American Black Duck--11 February (WH), 7 January (BKH), both Yankton Co.

Northern Pintail--10 January, 10 February, Yankton Co. (WH).

American Wigeon--12 December, 6-30 January, Yankton Co. (WH).

Redhead--28 February, Yankton Co., 10 (WH).

Ring-necked Duck--9 December, Hughes Co., Capitol Lake (DAT). 13 December, Yankton Co., Gavin's Point, 20 (BKH, RVS, SVS).

Greater Scaup--10 January, Yankton Co. (WH). 6 January, Yankton Co., Gavin's Point (BKH).

Common Goldeneye--21 December, Brown Co., SLNWR (DAT).

Barrow's Goldeneye--Rapid City CBC

Hooded Merganser--1 December, Yankton Co. (WH). 10 December, Stanley Co., Oahe Dam (BKH, DAT, ECM). 7 January, Charles Mix Co., Ft. Randall Dam (BKH).

Common Merganser--21 December, Brown Co., SLNWR (DAT).

Red-breasted Merganser--20 December, Yankton Co. (WH).

Bald Eagle--Observed in Brown, Custer, Deuel, Jackson, Lawrence, Pennington, and Yankton Co.

Northern Harrier--Observed in Custer, Fall River, Jackson, and Yankton Co.

Sharp-shinned Hawk--15 January, Yankton Co., caught bird in yard (WH). 2 February, Lawrence Co., working feeder (DCB). 24 February, Brown Co., working feeder (DAT).

Cooper's Hawk--26 January, Pennington Co. (MMM).

Northern Goshawk--24 December, Tripp Co. (RAP).

Red-tailed Hawk--Observed in Brookings, Fall River, Jackson, and Yankton Co.

Ferruginous Hawk--13 December, Custer Co., 3 (MMM).

Rough-legged Hawk--Observed in Brown, Custer, Fall River, Jackson, Lawrence, and Pennington Co.

Golden Eagle--21 December, Brown Co., SLNWR (DAT, DGP). 12 February, Edmunds Co. (DGP). Also observed in Custer, Faulk, Hand, Jackson, Pennington, Tripp, and Yankton Co.

Merlin--Observed in Day, Deuel, Fall River, Jackson, Pennington, and Stanley Co.

Prairie Falcon--Only observations from Fall River, Jackson, and Stanley Co.

Northern Bobwhite--23 December, Brown Co., SLNWR, escaped captivity? (DJH, WAS).

Common Snipe--Lawrence Co., during winter (DCB).

Franklin's Gull--13-24 December, Yankton Co., Gavin's Point (WH, BKH, photo BJR).

**ICELAND GULL**--11 December, Yankton Co., Gavin's Point Dam, photo, **FIRST STATE RECORD** if accepted by Rare Bird Records Committee (BJR). 13 December, Yankton Co., Gavin's Point Dam (BKH, RVS, SVS).

Thayer's Gull--9 December, Stanley Co., Oahe Dam (DAT). 17 December, Yankton Co., photo (BJR).

Glaucous Gull--1-20 December, Yankton Co. (WH). 9 December, Stanley Co., Oahe Dam (DAT). 8 January, Charles Mix Co., Ft. Randall Dam (BKH).

Black-legged Kittiwake--1-24 December, Yankton Co. (WH).

Snowy Owl--Observed in Brown, Butte, Edmunds, and Lake Co.

Short-eared Owl--Observed in Beadle, Brown, Custer, Deuel, and Haakon Co.

Northern Saw-whet Owl--17 December, Brown Co. (DGP).

Belted Kingfisher--Wintered in Lawrence (DCB) and Meade (EM) Co.

Red-bellied Woodpecker--2 December, Brookings Co. (JK).

Black-backed Woodpecker--21 January, Custer Co., 2 (RAP).

Northern Flicker--24 December, Turner Co., red-shafted form (LRL).

Brown Creeper--10 December-14 January, Day Co. (DRS). 4 January, Brown Co. (DAT).

Winter Wren--4 January, Lawrence Co. (DCB).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet--21 January, Fall River Co. (RAP).

Mountain Bluebird--13 February, Jackson Co., 6 early migrants? (KG). 23 February, Custer Co., 7 (MJP).

Townsend's Solitaire--28 January, Brown Co., Richmond Lake, 2 (DGP).

White-eyed Vireo--2 December, Sanborn Co., submitted to Rare Bird Records Committee (BR).

Yellow-rumped Warbler--2 December, Fall River Co., 7 (RAP)

Northern Cardinal--22 December, 28 January, Brown Co. (DAT).

Rufous-sided Towhee--28 January, Brown Co., Richmond Lake (DGP).

White-throated Sparrow--Lawrence Co., during period at feeder (DCB).

Cassin's Finch--Lawrence Co., during period (DCB).

House Finch--20 February, Fall River Co., 2 (RAP).

Common Redpoll--Only reports from Day, Deuel, and Roberts Co.

Hoary Redpoll--13-14 January, Brown Co., 1 (DAT).

Pine Siskin--Only reports from Brown, Custer, Day, Lawrence, and Meade Co.

# THE 1988/89 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Compiled by Dan Tallman  
Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401

ABERDEEN (ABR): 17 December 1988, 13 observers, temperature 15-38° F, trace snow cover, compiler Everett Montgomery. BROOKINGS (BRK): 17 December 1988, temperatures 20-30° F, 0-1 inch snow on ground, compiler Nelda Holden. DEUEL CO. (DUE): 2 January 1989, 5 observers, temperatures 8-20° F, wind 3-8 mph, snow cover patchy, compiler Bruce Harris. HOT SPRINGS (HOT): 17 December 1988, 8 observers, temperature 20-50° F, very windy, no snow cover; compiler Richard Peterson. MADISON (MAD): No count data provided. PIERRE (PIR): 18 December 1988, 15 observers, temperature "almost ideal," no snow cover, compiler R. V. Summerside. RAPID CITY (RAP): 24 December 1988, 23 observers, temperature up to 68° F, compiler Esther Serr. SAND LAKE (SAN): 11 observers, temperature 21 to 38° F, no snow, wind 15 mph, compiler William Schultz. SIOUX FALLS (SIO) 17 December 1988, 21 observers, temperature 10 to 28° F, wind brisk, a couple of inches of snow, compiler Gilbert Blankespoor. STURGIS (STR): 17 December, 18 observers, temperature 35-55° F; compiler Ernest Miller. WAUBAY (WAU): no count data provided; compiler Mike Getman. WILMOT (WIL): 24 December 1988, 5 observers, temperature 8-17° F, wind 5-15 mph, snow cover 5 inches, compiler Bruce Harris. YANKTON (YAN): 18 December 1988, 8 observers, temperature 34 to 54° F, slight snow cover, no wind, compiler Willis Hall.

	ABR	BRK	DUE	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIO	STR	WAU	WIL	YAN	totals
Western Grebe							1							1
Tundra Swan					1									1
Trumpeter Swan										1				1
White-fronted Goose							1							1
Snow Goose					310	12		40						362
Canada Goose		475		458	750	19450	60	500	5					21698
Green-winged Teal							3	19					2	24
Mallard	71	2000		12030	18575	12130	1476	16000	247				6849	69378
Northern Pintail					3		5						1	9
Northern Shoveler					1	1								2
Gadwall					2		117						126	245
American Wigeon					7	3	141							151
Redhead							4						1	5
Ring-necked Duck					5	2							2	9
Lesser Scaup					14	8							9	31
Scaup sp.							2		1				10	13
Common Goldeneye				8	5	41	151	6	1				95	307
Barrow's Goldeneye							1							1
Bufflehead					5	6	10							21
Hooded Merganser							3						2	5
Common Merganser		4		10		67	19						138	239
Bald Eagle			6	2	21	2	8			11			30	80
Northern Harrier				1		1	1							3
Accipiter sp.													2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1		3							4

	ABR	BRK	DUE	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIO	STR	WAU	WIL	YAN	totals	
Cooper's Hawk														0	
Northern Goshawk													2	2	
Red-tailed Hawk							1	2		10			7	20	
Ferruginous Hawk														0	
Rough-legged Hawk					1		1		2	1	1			6	
Buteo sp.													4	4	
Golden Eagle					5		2	1	1		7		1	17	
American Kestrel			3	1		5		5	4	8	3		13	42	
Merlin			1			4		1				1		7	
Prairie Falcon					1		1						1	3	
Gray Partridge				15		23						9		47	
Ring-necked Pheasant	197		10	26	1	41	57	11	72	83		11	26	92	627
Greater Prairie-Chicken														0	
Sharp-tailed Grouse							34	12						46	
Wild Turkey					80		110	152			327		28	697	
Northern Bobwhite														0	
American Coot						1		2					18	21	
Killdeer														0	
Common Snipe								1			4			6	
Franklin's Gull													1	1	
Ring-billed Gull					19		25						10	54	
Herring Gull							35						21	56	
Glaucous Gull													1	1	
Larus sp.													2	2	
Black-legged Kittiwake													1	1	
Rock Dove	39	135	87	346	231	295	707	26	494	29	5	105	24	2523	
Mourning Dove						1						2		3	
Eastern Screech-Owl									1				1	2	
Great Horned Owl	12	8	4	2	8	5	2	10	16	4	1	1	7	80	
Snowy Owl						3		1						4	
Long-eared Owl							1							1	
Short-eared Owl				4					1					5	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1													1	
Belted Kingfisher			1				1	16		3	1		1	23	
Lewis' Woodpecker											8			8	
Red-bellied Woodpecker			4	2					7			1	4	18	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker													1	1	
Downy Woodpecker	18	34	12	4	21	15	19	12	38	5	4	20	26	228	
Hairy Woodpecker	9	20	5	7	1	5	12	6	17	11	4	9	10	116	
Northern Flicker	7	7	1	15	3	12	11	10	1	5		2	27	101	
Horned Lark	12	1	349		17	70		21		10	15	160	1	656	
Gray Jay							4							5	
Blue Jay	8	11	6	11	3	9	45	6	19	54		4	15	191	
Pinyon Jay					135		53							188	
Clark's Nutcracker														0	
Black-billed Magpie				1		11	36			35			6	89	
American Crow			71	27	135	87	88	4	217	202		28	58	917	
Black-capped Chickadee	59	110	36	42	62	57	261	47	394	119	35	60	68	1350	
Red-breasted Nuthatch			1	1	11		2	72			9			96	
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	33	5	3	17	11	29	4	63	20	3	20	18	230	
Pygmy Nuthatch							8							8	
Brown Creeper	1	6	1	1	4	2	3		10			1	6	35	
Canyon Wren							4							4	
Winter Wren					2									2	
American Dipper														0	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	4			6								5	16	
Townsend's Solitaire					42		70			1				113	
American Robin	7	2		346		84	52	39	4	23			1	558	
Bohemian Waxwing														0	
Cedar Waxwing	73	19		25	5	270	31				38	75	7	543	
Northern Shrike	1	2		2	2	1	1	8	3		2		2	24	
Loggerhead Shrike										2				2	
Lanius sp.													1	1	
European Starling	309	94	148	402	998	200	883	279	601	177	15	40	788	4934	
Northern Cardinal					2				14				19	35	

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RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

	ABR	BRK	DUE	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIO	STR	WAL	WIL	YAN	totals
American Tree Sparrow	119	170	6	70	56	91	37	137	57	24	3		256	1026
Chipping Sparrow						2								2
Lark Sparrow						1								1
Song Sparrow						14	1		9					24
White-throated Sparrow							1							1
Harris' Sparrow													1	1
Dark-eyed Junco	7	43	2	172				9				10		243
Oregon Junco							28	1		4		2		35
Slate-colored Junco						7	161	19	169	79			91	526
White-winged Junco							202			24				226
Lapland Longspur	76	2	12					1			35	41		167
Snow Bunting			102								295	17		414
Red-winged Blackbird	10					65		8	1				318	402
Western Meadowlark				1										1
Yellow-headed Blackbird								1						1
Rusty Blackbird						1						4	30	35
Brewer's Blackbird						2								2
Common Grackle	7		5			8	6	74	1			10		111
Purple Finch	2	8							14		22	1		47
House Finch							11							11
Red Crossbill				29			19							48
White-winged Crossbill														0
Common Redpoll	2									1	2	5		10
Hoary Redpoll														0
Pine Siskin	3	4		132	3		285			57		1		485
American Goldfinch	9	90		108	16	13	83		50	33	6	2	49	459
Evening Grosbeak							168			78				244
House Sparrow	749	992	545	269	2136	981	531	980	622	227	25	427	124	8608
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1813	4365	1402	14932	23438	34252	6136	18339	3181	1596	530	1066	9444	120494
TOTAL FORMS	28	32	24	38	41	54	59	35	33	34	19	27	60	118