

South Dakota Bird Notes

Vol 32

September 1980

No. 3



Photo: Ron Spomer

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; sustaining members \$12.00; regular members \$6.00; family members (husband and wife) with one 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 payments, change-of-address notices, and orders for back numbers 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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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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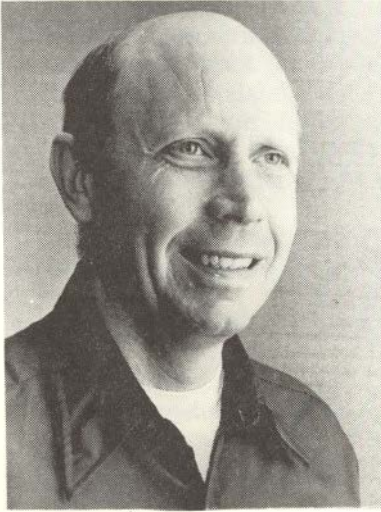
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

SDOU 1980 SPRING AND SUMMER MEETINGS

The 1980 SDOU Spring Meeting met at Sisseton on 16-18 May. Registration was held in the American Legion Hall on Friday evening with approximately 50 people registering. Friday evening was also devoted to a potluck slide show of pictures taken by various members. The show was enjoyed by all who were present. It was good to meet old friends and make new ones during the Friday evening social.

On Saturday the weather was cool and windy. Nevertheless, birding was excellent, with two groups sighting over a hundred species. There were three field trips to different areas of northeast South Dakota. One went to Roy Lake and Sica Hollow area, a second went to the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, and a third went toward Big Stone Lake and Hartford Beach State Park. The highlight of the day was finding a Summer Tanager at Waubay NWR.

On Saturday evening, the folks returned to the Legion Hall for a superb meal catered by Mrs. Eleanor Gravidahl of Sisseton. Afterwards, an excellent slide presentation was made by Erika Tallman on the birds and ecology of the Galapagos Islands. It was interesting to note that many of the birds on the Galapagos Islands are charcoal gray in color to blend with the volcanic rock background. This coloration is not for protection from predators but to protect the birds from being seen by the prey on which they feed. In other words, by blending in with the background, these birds become more effective predators.

There were two field trips on Sunday morning; one to the northeast corner of Roberts County and a second to Waubay in hopes of sighting the Summer Tanager. The Waubay group was lucky enough to see the Summer Tanager about 10 minutes before the time came to return to Sisseton.

At noon, Mrs. Gravidahl again provided an excellent meal. The Sunday call-off yielded a total of 168 species for the weekend. Checking back through the last 13 years of *Bird Notes*, I found this year's list to be longer than the previous high of 147 in 1975.

We extend thanks to the Sisseton Booster Club for providing the coffee and cookies on Friday evening and for helping to arrange the meeting place. The trip leaders were Bill Stewart, Doug Jones, Everett Montgomery, and Kenneth Husmann. To these individuals we extend our appreciation. Linda Watters, of the Waubay NWR, met the group at the refuge on Saturday and conducted a tour of the area. I would also like to express my appreciation to Nelda Holden who handled the important job of registration.

Registration at the 1980 Spring Meeting:

Aberdeen--Evelyn and Raymond Roberts, Everett and Jeanette Montgomery, Dan and Erika Tallman.

Brookings--Nelda, Dave, and Arthur Holden, Kenneth and Patsy Husmann, Lois and Darrell Wells.

Bruce--Esther and Dick Edie

Clear Lake--Wynn Eakins

Camp Crook--Bob Rogers

Doland--Howard and Marion Hahn

Hot Springs--Teresa Meyer

Huron--Jim and Blanche Johnson

Lake City--Jessica Giusti

Madison--Robert Buckman

Prairie City--Alfred and Gertrice Hinds

Pierre--Ron and Cheryl Spomer

Rapid City--Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hays, Jocelyn Baker, H. R. and Dorothy Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Behrens, Nat and Mary Whitney, and Len and Clara Yarger.

Sioux Falls--Gil and Jan Blankespoor, Robert and Lucille Trusler

Sisseton--Noble Graversen, Marie Hollen, and Alvina Opitz

Waubay--Linda Watters

Webster--Herman Chilson, and Mr. and Mrs. Rich Fiksdal

Volga--Carol Oleson

The following birds were recorded:

Red-necked Grebe	Gadwall
Horned Grebe	Pintail
Eared Grebe	Green-winged Teal
Western Grebe	Blue-winged Teal
Pied-billed Grebe	American Wigeon
White Pelican	Shoveler
Double-crested Cormorant	Wood Duck
Great Blue Heron	Redhead
Great Egret	Ring-necked Duck
Black-crowned Night Heron	Canvasback
American Bittern	Lesser Scaup
Canada Goose	Ruddy Duck
Mallard	Bufflehead

Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Rough-legged Hawk
 Ferruginous Hawk
 Marsh Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Sharp-tailed Grouse
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Gray Partridge
 Turkey
 Sora
 American Coot
 Semipalmated Plover
 Killdeer
 Golden Plover
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Common Snipe
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Upland Plover
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Willet
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Baird's Sandpiper
 Least Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Western Sandpiper
 Sanderling
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Marbled Godwit
 American Avocet
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Ring-billed Gull
 Franklin's Gull
 Forster's Tern
 Common Tern
 Black Tern
 Rock Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Screech Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Short-eared Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Chimney Swift
 Belted Kingfisher
 Common Flicker
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Eastern Kingbird
 Western Kingbird
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Least Flycatcher
 Eastern Wood Pewee
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Horned Lark
 Tree Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Rough-winged Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Purple Martin
 Blue Jay
 Common Crow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 House Wren
 Long-billed Marsh Wren
 Short-billed Marsh Wren
 Mockingbird
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 American Robin
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Veery
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Cedar Waxwing
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Starling
 Bell's Vireo
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Solitary Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Philadelphia Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler

Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Palm Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Connecticut Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
American Redstart
House Sparrow
Bobolink
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Northern Oriole

Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
American Goldfinch
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
LeConte's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Chestnut-collared Longspur

The third annual summer SDOU meeting was held on 18-20 July in Pierre. Not many people attended but those who did enjoyed a good weekend of birding. We met in the Community Room of the Red Owl Store on Friday evening. On Saturday morning we traveled along the Bad River Road that had its usual variety of birds. Although a light rain fell during much of the morning, it proved to be a welcome break from the summer heat, even if it interfered with the birding. We returned to the Oahe Dam area at noon, had lunch, and went south to the Fort Pierre National Grasslands. In the afternoon, the rain stopped and the wind became quite strong, but we still saw many prairie species. We ate a fine evening meal at Pat Vance's and later took another drive along Bad River.

On Sunday morning we drove again to the grasslands in a fruitless effort to sight Sharp-tailed Grouse. We returned by way of Farm Island where, despite a light rain, we found a good number of birds.

Altogether we sighted 95 species of birds, a good record for a limited number of observers. Probably our best sightings were Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, Eastern Phoebe, and a family of Screech Owls.

Participants at the Pierre meeting include: Robert Buckman (Madison), Ron and Cheryl Spomer, Dave Sanford, Pat Vance, Edith Vanderwaal, and Mellie Burier (all from Pierre). The following birds were sighted (H-Hughes Co., S-Stanley Co., I-immature, F=food in bill, N=nesting):

Eared Grebe (S)
 Pied-billed Grebe (S)
 Double-crested Cormorant (H, S)
 Great Blue Heron (S)
 Canada Goose (H)
 Mallard (H, S, I)
 Gadwall (S)
 Pintail (H, S)
 Blue-winged Teal (S)
 American Wigeon (S)
 Shoveler (S, I)
 Wood Duck (H, S, I)
 Redhead (S)
 Canvasback (S)
 Turkey Vulture (H, S)
 Sharp-shinned Hawk (H)
 Red-tailed Hawk (H, S)
 Swainson's Hawk (S)
 Marsh Hawk (S, I)
 American Kestrel (H, S, I)
 Greater Prairie Chicken (S)
 Ring-necked Pheasant (S)
 Killdeer (H, S, I)
 Upland Plover (S)
 Spotted Sandpiper (S)
 Lesser Yellowlegs (S)
 White-rumped Sandpiper (S)
 Baird's Sandpiper (S)
 Semipalmated Sandpiper (S)
 Herring Gull (S)
 Ring-billed Gull (S)
 Franklin's Gull (S)
 Rock Dove (H, S, I)
 Mourning Dove (H, S, I)
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (S)
 Screech Owl (H, I)
 Great Horned Owl (H, S)
 Burrowing Owl (S)
 Common Nighthawk (H, S)
 Chimney Swift (H, S)
 Belted Kingfisher (H, S)
 Common Flicker (H, S)
 Red-headed Woodpecker (H, S)
 Hairy Woodpecker (H)
 Downy Woodpecker (H, I)
 Eastern Kingbird (H, S, I)
 Western Kingbird (H, S, I)
 Great Crested Flycatcher (H)
 Eastern Phoebe (S, F)
 Say's Phoebe (S, F)
 Horned Lark (S)
 Tree Swallow (H)
 Rough-winged Swallow (S, I)
 Barn Swallow (H, S, I, N)
 Cliff Swallow (S)
 Purple Martin (S)
 Blue Jay (H, S)
 Black-capped Chickadee (H, S)
 White-breasted Nuthatch (H)
 Red-breasted Nuthatch (S)
 House Wren (H, S, I, F)
 Rock Wren (S)
 Gray Catbird (H, S)
 Brown Thrasher (H, S, I)
 American Robin (H, S, I)
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (H)
 Loggerhead Shrike (S, I)
 Starling (H, S, I)
 Red-eyed Vireo (H)
 Warbling Vireo (H)
 Yellow Warbler (H, I)
 Common Yellowthroat (H, S)
 Yellow-breasted Chat (H)
 American Redstart (H)
 House Sparrow (H, S, I)
 Western Meadowlark (H, S)
 Yellow-headed Blackbird (S)
 Red-winged Blackbird (H, S, I)
 Orchard Oriole (S, I)
 Northern Oriole (H, S, I)
 Common Grackle (H, S, I)
 Brown-headed Cowbird (S, I)
 Black-headed Grosbeak (S)
 Blue Grosbeak (S, I)
 Indigo Bunting (S)
 American Goldfinch (H, S)
 Rufous-sided Towhee (H, S, I)
 Lark Bunting (S, I)
 Grasshopper Sparrow (S, I)
 Vesper Sparrow (S)
 Lark Sparrow (S, I)
 Chipping Sparrow (H, S)
 Chestnut-collared Longspur (S)

FOREST SERVICE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE TREES

by **L. M. Baylor**

Rapid City 57701

In response to management needs for game and nongame species, the Black Hills National Forest has established policies on wildlife trees. Henceforth, personnel in the Timber Management Division will have the responsibility to maintain turkey roost trees, raptor nest trees, and snags in sufficient quality, quantity, and distribution to support self-sustaining populations of snag-dependent species.

To fulfill this policy, the timber management personnel will identify and protect turkey roost tree groups and raptor nest trees. No logging activity will be permitted within a radius of 500 feet of active raptor nests from courtship through fledging. Furthermore, the timber personnel will endeavor to maintain a minimum of 200 suitable snags per 100 acres for use by cavity-nesting birds.

This latter goal will require special marking and retention of snags in preparation for timber harvesting activities and the retention of poor-risk or lightning-struck trees to serve as snag replacements. Of course, some areas, such as buffer strips, fire breaks, and hazardous sites, will not be appropriate for the maintenance of snags, but the snag policy applied throughout the rest of the Black Hills National Forest promises benefits for the cavity-dependent birds.

A suitable snag will be at least 16 feet high and will have a diameter of at least 10 inches at a point about 4 to 5 feet above the ground. In areas where snag density is low, the new policy encourages the conversion of live trees to snags so as to meet the goal of 200 snags per 100 acres.

Since the snags designated for wildlife use may be more vulnerable to the woodcutter's axe or saw, the directive requires the marking of snags with "wildlife tree" signs. The ultimate success of this program will require an enlightened, responsible public.

The Forest Service merits SDOU's commendation for initiating the program involving wildlife trees.

BELL'S VIREO, COWBIRD, AND OTHER BIRDS OF A PLUM THICKET

Success and Failure among Birds

by Willis Hall

Yankton 57078

A few years ago, not far from the shore of Lake Marindahl, about five miles east of the James River, I found a vireo nest only a couple of feet high. Although I was unable to return to check the nest again, I felt quite sure that it was the nest of a Bell's Vireo that I had heard singing in a nearby thicket. During the following years I went to that plum thicket to hear the song again, but, although I took some pictures of the enthusiastic songster, I repeatedly failed to find a nest.

On the opposite side of that same river and closer to it, on 16 June 1979 I again listened to, and watched, the Bell's Vireo in a dense plum thicket, at the edge of a curving gravel road. On 4 July, after noting an area where the vireos often went, I found their nest only 26 inches from the ground in a small plum tree. Three vireo eggs and a young bird no bigger than an egg were in the nest. The next day two young and two eggs were in the nest. On 6 July, after being granted permission to frequent the land, I spent some time just observing the birds of the thicket--including Brown Thrashers, Orchard Orioles, Yellow Warblers, and Black-billed Cuckoos. The distant green hills, the river, and the nearby hills with their many wild flowers were also a part of the chosen scene of the busy birds of the thicket.

On 7 July, I paused but a moment at the nest to photograph it and its contents. No eggs were visible. The contents of the nest on 9 July surprised me--two young birds and one vireo egg. Of the two little birds, one was but a midget whereas the other was several times its size. Something was wrong here. I left with uneasy thoughts, for I had hopes of at last seeing little vireos as they developed day by day.

10 July. Upon seeing the two little birds in the nest I was so impressed with the disproportionate size that I knew the larger was a cowbird, despite the fact that one authority in Bent (1965a) found that Bell's Vireos had thrown out the eggs of a cowbird. Other authorities cited in Bent (1965a) found that Bell's Vireos "will usually desert the nest if imposed upon by a cowbird." Harold M. Holland (in Bent, 1965a) believed that "the Bell's contribution toward increasing our cowbird population may be considered relatively small." Mrs. Nice (in Bent, 1965a) reported of her Bell's Vireos that "out of nine failures, seven were due to cowbirds; but in no case was a cowbird raised." Here I found that the pair of Bell's Vireos was providing very well for the cowbird--apparently at the expense of its own young. I could take this burden from them. I removed the young cowbird from the nest and as I did so the one remaining little vireo lifted



its head to be fed. How small it was! At home, after photographing the cowbird beside a ruler, Rosamond and I fed it. It readily took anything offered.

In mid-afternoon I went back to the vireo nest to see how the little vireo was faring. The adult vireos were both there. One went to the nest and, turning its head, looked inquisitively in. It went away and then came back to look again. The nest was empty except for the unhatched egg. The little one was not on the ground. Now I realized that there were to be no little vireos raised in this family. Would a foster cowbird be better than no family at all? When I watched these bereft parent birds I decided that it would. Back to town I went for the cowbird and soon had it returned to the nest. In a few minutes both vireos were feeding it at very short intervals. Its appetite apparently was beyond their ability to satisfy. From 7:30 to 8:20 p.m. they took food to it twelve times. Sometimes the food seemed over-sized because it would stay in the cowbird's open beak for a second or two; then it would be taken out by the parent birds, then tried again. Sometimes the same food would be tried several times.

11 July. The vireos brought food often and one time a large grasshopper was pulled out and replaced in the cowbird's beak six times before it went down.

12 July. In two-and-one-half hours the vireos made 36 trips to the nest. Most of the food was grasshoppers. The cowbird still had much exposed skin. The vireos were at the nest several times together.

13 July. Only once did I see both vireos at the nest. Three or four times, when one was at the nest, the other came close enough to pass the food to it and it in turn fed the cowbird. Once the cowbird fully stretched its wings.

14 July. In two-and-one-half hours of observing the nest, I did not see the cowbird. The vireos were close by and frequently disappeared into the thicket. The nest was empty. This was the tenth day after my finding the newly hatched cowbird.

17 July. The two Bell's Vireos were at the thicket. The young cowbird was not apparently fully feathered and flew from weed to weed and to a plum twig, and kept the vireos busy trying to find it when they brought food.

20 July. No trace of the vireos or cowbird was found.

On 17 July, when I watched the vireos and cowbird for the last time, a Field Sparrow flew from the tall grass just ahead of me. There at the margin of the plum thicket, 15 feet from the edge of the road and some 40 feet from the vireo nest, was its nest. It was poorly attached to grass stems on one side only and was just 17 inches above the ground. One egg of the Field Sparrow was in the nest. On 18 July, two cowbird eggs kept two little sparrow eggs company. I removed them. Perhaps this had some slight ameliorating effect on the cowbird-Field Sparrow relationship. Bent (1968) says, "Unquestionably the chief enemy of the Field Sparrow in the northern United States is the Brown-headed Cowbird." By 20 July, three eggs of the Field Sparrow enhanced its nest, which sagged on the unsupported side about 45°. A green nylon cord, put twice around the nest and its bundle of grass, made it more secure but did not improve its equilibrium. As the days went on I was constantly surprised that the sparrow would incubate and keep her young in that frail nest. This she did and all went well with the nestlings, which I had first seen on 1 August, when they appeared to be two or three days old. Perhaps she was counting heavily on her nestlings' being a little on the precocious side, for reading in Bent (1968) we learn that little Field Sparrows are known to leave the nest "between 7 and 8 days of age, and when disturbed, often at 5 days," hopping "first to the nest rim, then to the ground." Certainly in this nest it would have taken little effort to hop to the rim. The nest was empty and on the ground when I visited the thicket on 7 August, about the minimal time for them to depart. A victory over the cowbirds of the thicket!

Literature Consulted

Bent, Arthur C.

- 1965a. *Life Histories of North American Wagtails, Shrikes, Vireos, and Their Allies*. New York: Dover Publications. 411 pp.
- 1965b. *Life Histories of North American Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers, and Allies*. New York: Dover Publications. 549 pp.
- 1968. *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1889 pp.

GENERAL NOTES

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS IN SOUTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA.--On 25 May 1979, we banded a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Oakwood Lakes State Park in Brookings Co. Identification was verified by Rachel E. Lamoreaux of Fremont, California. We have banded four Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Oakwood: one on 31 July 1965, two on 26 May 1976, and one on 27 May 1976. We also banded this species at Rush Lake, near Ocheyedan, Iowa. These birds are always carefully keyed out before identification is made.--Charles and Gladycce Rogge, Brookings 57006.

CASSIN'S FINCH AT PINE RIDGE, SHANNON CO.--Mike Homoya and Richard Roche report 14 records of flocks (10 to 50 individuals) of Cassin's Finches at a feeder at Pine Ridge, Shannon Co., South Dakota between 1 March and 7 May 1980. This location is in Ponderosa Pine country but at least 60 miles SE of the habitat usually associated with the species in the southern Black Hills. Roche writes that this finch usually appears at his feeder at Chadron, Nebraska (28 miles SW of Pine Ridge) around 1 March and he has evidence of nesting there. The possibility exists that the Cassin's Finch breeds in the open Ponderosa Pine belt on the Pine Ridge Reservation, far from the high pine-fir-poplar habitat we have known as the traditional nesting habitat for this species.--Bruce Harris, Clear Lake 57226.

HYBRID GROSBEAKS.--In June 1979 and 1980, our family spent a few days in the Black Hills. While at Roughlock Falls, we found two hybrid grosbeaks (Rose-breasted x Black-headed), one in 1979 and one in 1980. The first, observed on 4 June 1979, had orange underparts similar to a Black-headed Grosbeak but had a rose-colored breast spot. This bird was singing and seemed to be mated with a typical female Black-headed Grosbeak.

The second hybrid, seen on 16 June 1980, had the typical coloration of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak except that the breast spot was orange instead of rose. This individual was seen near typical Black-headed Grosbeak males.

Bertin W. Anderson and Daugherty have done extensive work on hybridization of grosbeaks in South Dakota (Wilson Bulletin 86:1-11). They worked primarily along the Missouri River and its western tributaries. Most hybrids came from the southern half of the Missouri River Trench. Roughlock Falls is considerably west of the hybridization range that Anderson and Daugherty cite.--Nelda Holden, Brookings 57006.

ROGGE'S BIRD BANDING REPORT.--We have banded birds since 1964. Our activities have been largely concentrated between 1 May and 1 November in southeastern South Dakota. By the end of 1979, we banded 11,504 birds comprising 150 species. The following is our 1979 banding report (57 species, 491 individuals):

Mourning Dove	7	Black-and-white Warbler	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Tennessee Warbler	26
Screech Owl	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	4
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	Nashville Warbler	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Yellow Warbler	24
Downy Woodpecker	3	Magnolia Warbler	1
Eastern Kingbird	1	Myrtle Warbler	4
Western Kingbird	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	Blackpoll Warbler	12
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Ovenbird	4
Traill's Flycatcher	23	Northern Waterthrush	1
Least Flycatcher	14	Connecticut Warbler	1
Blue Jay	3	Mourning Warbler	4
Black-capped Chickadee	4	Common Yellowthroat	1
Brown Creeper	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
House Wren	11	Wilson's Warbler	5
Gray Catbird	17	Canada Warbler	4
Brown Thrasher	3	American Redstart	5
American Robin	118	House Sparrow	2
Wood Thrush	1	Yellow-headed Blackbird	16
Swainson's Thrush	9	Red-winged Blackbird	6
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Orchard Oriole	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Baltimore Oriole	37
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Common Grackle	23
Starling	3	American Goldfinch	7
Red-eyed Vireo	4	Slate-colored Junco	26
Philadelphia Vireo	1	Chipping Sparrow	2
Warbling Vireo	9	White-throated Sparrow	13
		Lincoln's Sparrow	5

Gladyce and Charles Rogge, Brookings 57006.

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER AT BURKE LAKE.--A singing male Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*) caught my attention on 3 May 1979 at the Burke Lake State Recreation Area, two miles east of Burke, Gregory Co., South Dakota. I had an excellent view of all field marks and was able to study them for about five minutes under excellent light at a distance of about 30 feet. This sighting is noteworthy because it is one of the few west of the Missouri and because 3 May is one of the earliest dates recorded for this warbler.--Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523.

1979 BANDING REPORT FROM BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA.--During a banding program at my country home south of Brookings, several interesting returns of birds have occurred. Two of the most fascinating recaptures are a female Downy Woodpecker and a female Hairy Woodpecker. The Downy returned after 10 years but has since been found dead. The Hairy returned after 15 years. Its band was worn thin so the newly released bird now wears a shiny new ring. Hopefully this Hairy Woodpecker will return again before something takes its life.

I banded the following birds during 1979:

Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	Common Grackle	10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	Dickcissel	1
Hairy Woodpecker	3	Pine Siskin	3
Downy Woodpecker	11	American Goldfinch	46
Purple Martin	3	Slate-colored Junco	236
Blue Jay	2	Oregon Junco	1
Black-capped Chickadee	11	Tree Sparrow	22
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Chipping Sparrow	37
Brown Thrasher	2	Clay-colored Sparrow	3
American Robin	13	Harris' Sparrow	7
Black-and-white Warbler	1	White-crowned Sparrow	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	White-throated Sparrow	5
Myrtle Warbler	15	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
		(total 443)	

I recaptured the following species that I had banded earlier:

species	date banded	return date
Tree Sparrow	9 March 1977	14 February 1979
Downy Woodpecker	24 November 1971	15 April 1979
Downy Woodpecker	20 February 1977	15 April 1979
Downy Woodpecker	30 November 1973	6 May 1979
Downy Woodpecker	27 March 1972	12 May 1979
Downy Woodpecker	10 March 1973	12 May 1979
Chipping Sparrow	27 April 1978	22 April 1979
Chipping Sparrow	17 August 1976	22 April 1979
Chipping Sparrow	6 September 1976	4 May 1979
Black-capped Chickadee	16 March 1976	12 May 1979
Hairy Woodpecker	7 March 1976	12 May 1979
Downy Woodpecker	24 November 1971	6 April 1980
Hairy Woodpecker	14 April 1965	7 April 1980
Chipping Sparrow	6 September 1976	1 May 1980
Hairy Woodpecker	7 March 1976	28 April 1980

Nelda Holden. Brookings 57006.

VARIED THRUSH IN BROOKINGS COUNTY.--During our Christmas Bird Count on 15 December 1979 in southcentral Brookings Co., we found a male Varied Thrush. It was observed in the back yard of Carol Oleson's country home, five miles south of Volga. As we entered the back yard, the bird flew up from the ground to a low tree branch. Carol Oleson knew this species well in California but it was a life bird for the rest of us.

The normal range for the Varied Thrush is the moist coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest. In winter, it moves south to the San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The Varied Thrush is a casual winter visitant in South Dakota and several records are reported in *The Birds of South Dakota*. In recent years it seems to have shown up annually in some part of the state. In 1979, it was also reported in the Aberdeen Christmas Bird Count. (An even more recent record is contained in the *Birds of the Season Report* in this issue of *Bird Notes*: *Editor's Note*.)

This record is a first for Brookings Co. Our Christmas count coincided with a very rapid arrival of a severe cold front.

Carol Oleson reported seeing the bird again in the late afternoon of 16 December 1980.--Nelda Holden, Brookings 57006.

WHITE-FACED IBIS ON LAKE ANDES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.--On 26 April 1980, personnel of the Lake Andes NWR observed six White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chichi*) on the south unit of the refuge. The short marsh vegetation and the close proximity to the south dike road made positive identification easy. The birds remained in the area for several days, feeding in the shallow marsh edge.

The White-faced Ibis is listed as a rare visitant in South Dakota, with the earliest previous spring record being 8 May (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*).--David Hilley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lake Andes NWR 57356.

WINTER WREN IN NORTHERN BLACK HILLS.--On 4 June 1979 our family camped at Black Fox Campground in southern Lawrence Co. We visited a stream one mile west of the camp. A Winter Wren sang on the moist hillside behind this stream. I am familiar with the song from earlier experiences with this wren in eastern North America and from tape recordings. The 1979 spring was unusually wet and the hillside was quite damp, containing much Sphagnum Moss. After extensive searching, we finally spotted the wren among some fallen logs.

This date is a late record for a migrant Winter Wren in South Dakota. *The Birds of South Dakota* lists 22-23 May as the latest dates for the species. The normal breeding range is south to a line running from northern Minnesota to northwestern Montana, being found even further south in eastern and western mountains.

Could the bird we saw have been breeding or was it only a late migrant? More observations of this species are necessary before we can add the Winter Wren to our list of breeding birds of the northern Black Hills.--Nelda Holden, Brookings 57006.

MATING RITUAL OF AN AMERICAN BITTERN.--At 9:30 a.m. on 26 May 1980, I witnessed the mating ritual of a male American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) performed for a female bittern that perched well hidden among the reeds of a small, nearby slough. The birds were sighted near a county road about 12 miles east of Rapid City.

Two field marks that seemed very conspicuous, although I have never noted them on other American Bitterns, were 1) black whisker feathers that were fluffy or downy-looking and stood erect from the side of the neck somewhat like the head featherings on some gallinaceous birds during courtship rituals and 2) two white, fan-shaped patches located high above the shoulders and behind the neck on the bird's back and also appearing downy or fluffy and very prominent, even at a distance.

The male's behavior consisted of a two-part ritual. First was a typical bittern frozen stance with the neck extended and the head and bill pointed skyward. Second, the bird assumed a crouched body position that caused the two white patches on the back to become conspicuous. The second part of the display contained two acoustical portions. One sound was made by clicking the mandibles together several times. Next, the more typical pumping noises, a three-syllable sound like "pup-er-lunk," were heard. The pumping was repeated several times. Accompanying the sounds, the bittern lowered and raised his head by contracting his neck and thrusting it and the head convulsively forward. After several "pup-er-lunks," the bird refrained from any vocalizations for at least five minutes but, then, repeated the clicking and pumping sounds.

The male's body, in contrast to the female's sleek, slim-looking body, appeared inflated, swollen, and roundish. The female, whose posture was the typical frozen, bill-pointed-skyward stance, remained partially hidden in the slough reeds. She continuously focused her eyes on the male and his performance.

The male twice walked over toward the female. Then he walked along a narrow creek that flowed from one small slough into a more distant one. The female followed a short distance behind while the male led in a crouched, cowered position with his white back patches very visible. When the male returned to the pasture where he had begun his display, he again started his courtship ritual and the female resumed her partially hidden frozen stance in the reeds of the more distant slough. The birds disappeared in the reeds after the male had performed twice. In all, I observed these bitterns for about 30 minutes. **Jocelyn L. Baker, Rapid City 57701.**

LATE FALL RECORD FOR THE DICKCISSEL.--On 6 December 1979, I banded and released a female Dickcissel. The latest date listed in *The Birds of South Dakota* is 1 October 1971 in Minnehaha Co. by Blankespoor and Krause. The bird seemed in good health and it flew away on strong wings. The fall of 1979 was mild; possibly the bird was still migrating.--**Nelda Holden, Brookings 57006.**

EVENING GROSBEAKS AT ABERDEEN IN THE WINTER OF 1978-79.--On 11 November 1978, we had 17 Evening Grosbeaks at our bird feeder. In near-blizzard conditions, they entertained us for nearly three hours. Although this species is to be expected irregularly in northeastern South Dakota, no Aberdeen records are cited by Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*.--Karen North-Tupa, Aberdeen 57401.

SORA RAIL AT HURON.--Late in the afternoon of 19 May 1980, I noticed an unusual bird skulking from one covert to another under our big window. "A Sora Rail," I stuttered to Blanche. But the bird was gone when she looked out the window.

We assumed that the bird would never reappear. But on 21 May we saw it hurrying from the bath to the cover of a vine by the window. The following afternoon, we saw it in the pool, leisurely taking a bath. It scooped water over itself with slow wings, never causing the splashing usual to most birds we see. The bath completed, the Sora walked calmly back to its cover in the vine.

Blanche checked the indexes of *Bird Notes*, finding several references. In Vol. 4, page 48, H.F. Chapman quotes from Dr. L. H. Walkinshaw, "Don't be surprised if you find one [a Sora]...in your back yard some morning" because of swampy areas' drying due to lack of rain. Drought conditions again exist and may have been why our Sora was scouting our yard.

Our Sora stayed with us until the night of 3 June. Usually at night it roosted in the vine by our windows, becoming nervous if we spent time observing it. During the day, it strolled about in the open for periods of 10 minutes at a time, picking up things occasionally from the grass and walking through the bath with only casual interest in the concrete shore. We never saw the Sora show interest in the seed or cracked corn that the other birds ate from the ground.--J. W. and Blanche Johnson, Huron 57350.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON IN EASTERN TRIPP COUNTY.--On 25 May 1977, I observed an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Myctanassa violacea*) in extreme east-central Tripp Co. I found it in a small roadside pothole one mile south of Highway 44, four miles west of the Tripp-Gregory Co. line. I had an excellent view using a spotting scope with perfect light and particularly noted the distinctive black and white head pattern.

I studied the heron for about 20 minutes and watched it make two short flights to other areas of the pothole. Once it approached to within 30 yards of my car. This record is one of the few observations of this species in South Dakota west of the Missouri (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*).--Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523.

SNOWY EGRETS ON OWENS BAY.--Two Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) were observed on 29 April 1980 on the Owens Bay Unit of the Lake Andes NWR. The egrets were first observed by Gary R. Zahm, Refuge Manager, with subsequent sightings made by other refuge personnel. The birds were feeding with a group of Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and using the willow trees that surround the bay as roosting sites.

Snowy Egrets are rare visitors to Lake Andes and this record is one of the earliest sightings.--David Hilley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lake Andes NWR 57356.

NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER POSSIBLY NESTING IN CATHEDRAL SPIRES AREA.--While hiking the Cathedral Spires Trail on June 1, 1979 we were directed, by the drumming of a woodpecker, to some dead snags along the trail. I discovered a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker making a nest hole about 10 feet above the ground. My husband and I observed this bird for several minutes. Other nesting records reported in *The Birds of South Dakota* for this species have been from the northern Black Hills.--Nelda Holden, Brookings 57006.

POSSIBLE NESTING OF RED CROSSBILLS AT BURKE LAKE.--From 1 January through, at least, 27 April 1980, a flock of 15 Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) was present at Burke Lake State Recreation Area in Gregory Co., South Dakota. In late February, I noted that this flock broke up into smaller units composed of three or four individuals. On several occasions I noted pairs of males and females.

On 1 March 1980, I observed a female Red Crossbill half-heartedly attempting to gather nesting material. She moved about the branches of a dead Jack Pine, frequently breaking off small dead twigs. However, after holding the twigs in her beak for a few seconds, she would drop them and move on in search of another twig. I watched this activity for about five minutes. Meanwhile, a male Red Crossbill, breaking occasionally into full song, sat at the very top of the dead Jack Pine. No attempt at actual nest building was observed and shortly both birds flew off to a distant part of the area. During subsequent visits to the region, I searched unsuccessfully for further nest-building activity and for nests.

On the morning of 20 April 1980, I found a pair of adult Red Crossbills accompanied by two heavily streaked immatures. I observed the birds foraging along a large horizontal branch of a dying willow tree. I watched the birds for about 15 minutes. They appeared to be feeding on insects in the rough bark of the branch.

The heavily streaked plumage of the immatures indicates that they were not long out of the nest. I think it likely that the adults nested in the Burke Lake area but, because I never found a nest, I cannot be positive. If the crossbills did breed in the region, this record would constitute one of the few instances of their doing so in South Dakota outside the Black Hills (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*). In any case, 27 April is by far the latest date I have recorded Red Crossbills wintering in the Burke Lake area.--Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523.

OLDSQUAWS ON THE MISSOURI.--On 2 March 1980, while sitting in a blind 0.5 miles below the Oahe Dam powerhouse on the Missouri River, my wife Cheryl and I watched one male and female Oldsquaw forage. We first saw the pair in the full sun at 1:15 p.m. as they swam upstream. There was almost no water being released from the dam. For the next 30 minutes, the two ducks dove and surfaced as close as 150 feet from our position on the east bank. I took several photos.

The dives we timed ranged from 30 to 50 seconds. Surface time between dives averaged 12 seconds. Only once did the two swim a relatively long distance (50 yards) without diving. Both invariably surfaced several yards from where they had gone under. When one dove, the other usually followed.

At one point, the male flew low over the water for about 20 yards, and raised and fluffed its plumage after landing beside a Mallard drake. After about 30 minutes, one of the Oldsquaws disappeared. While we had our attentions focused on other birds, the second Oldsquaw also left the area.

Rich Hill of Pierre reported seeing an Oldsquaw in this area during the winter. I saw one Oldsquaw here during the CBC of 1978. Previous winter sightings of this species in South Dakota (Lake Andes NWR, 4 December 1967; Big Stong City, 15 December 1973; Oahe Tailrace, December 1978) indicate that we should expect them as rare but regular wintering waterfowl on open waters.--Ron Spomer, Pierre 57501.

THE 1980 SPRING SEASON

by **BRUCE HARRIS**

Box 605, Clear Lake 57226

Although some species appeared early, this year's migration was generally normal. Weather in the NE was cool and dry until 20 April, when record temperatures were reached. However, cool weather returned and continued with below normal precipitation until mid-May, when good rains fell. Most areas west of the Missouri were very dry throughout the spring.

The most interesting record was that of a Summer Tanager, apparently the sixth state record. Other highlights included Snowy Egret, Gyrfalcon, Sage Thrasher, Varied Thrush, and Cassin's Finch. Earliest dates ever were reported for Swainson's Hawk, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brewer's Blackbird, and Field Sparrow.

The following individuals contributed to this report: Jocie Baker (JB), Chancey Bittner (CB), James Cole (JC), Orena Cooper (●C), Emmet Easton (EmE), Esther Edie (EE), Bruce Harris (BKH), James Herrig (JH), Nelda Holden (NJH), Mike Homoya (MH), Kenneth Husmann (KH), Robert Johnson (RRJ), Doug Kreger (DK), Micky Lantz (ML),

Michael Melius (MM), Carol Oleson (CO), Richard Roche (RCR), D. J. Roche (DJR), Bob Rogers (BR), Mrs. Tom Sparks (TS), Ron and Cheryl Spomer (RCS), Dan Tallman (DAT), Charles Taylor (CT), Linda Watters (LLW), Darrel Wells (DW), Spencer Vaa (SV). As in the past, this report could not be compiled without the help of Esther Serr and other SDOU members who are occasionally inadvertently left off lists of contributors to this column.

Common Loon--3 May, Meade Co. (JB). 25 May, Brookings Co. (SV).

Red-necked Grebe--28 April, Deuel Co. (BKH). 30 April, Waubay NWR (LLW).

Western Grebe--26 May, Pennington Co. (JB), considered rare in this area.

Double-crested Cormorant--9 April, Day Co. (KH), early date.

Snowy Egret--5 May, Waubay NWR (LLW).

Great Egret--30 April, Waubay NWR (LLW). 8 May, Day Co. (KH).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron--20 May 1978, Faulk Co. (MM).

White-fronted Goose--3 April, Brookings, Co., 100 (NJH), early. 6 March, Hughes Co. (RCS, CB).

Green-winged Teal--15 March, Grant Co. (BKH). 9 March, Pennington Co. (JB), very early.

Lesser Scaup--14 March, Brookings Co. (DW fide NJH), early. 16 May, Pierre, 4 (JB), late spring date.

Hooded Merganser--9 March, Pennington Co. (JB). 15 March, Grant Co. (BKH). 5 March, Hughes Co. (RCS, CB).

Common Merganser--28 April, Deuel Co. (BKH), late spring date.

Sharp-shinned Hawk--reported only from Brown and Day Co.

Cooper's Hawk--17 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 17 May, Day Co. (RCS).

Red-tailed Hawk--15 March, Deuel Co. (BKH). 18 March, Clark Co. (RRJ). Both records very early.

Broad-winged Hawk--29 May, Brookings Co. (CO). Reports also from Brown and Deuel Co. 6 April, Hutchinson Co. (RCS).

Swainson's Hawk--31 March, Brookings Co. (CO), earliest date on record. 26 April, Harding Co. (BR).

Rough-legged Hawk--16 March, Custer Co. (JB).

Golden Eagle--9 April, Waubay NWR (RRJ), latest ever for east of Missouri River migrant.

Bald Eagle--12 reports from Deuel and other northeast counties.

Marsh Hawk--15 March, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Osprey--27 April, Brookings Co. (NJH, CO).

Gyrfalcon--29 February, Brown Co. (DAT), gray phase.

Merlin--5 April, Brookings Co. (OC). 27 April, Brookings Co. (CO, NJH).
27 April, Harding Co. (BR).

Sage Grouse--24 April, Fall River Co. (DJR), 8 males on booming
grounds; also 5 seen on 22 May (DJR).

Sandhill Crane--7 April, Day Co. (KH). 6 April, Perkins Co. (BR). Both
records are early dates. 11 April, Brookings Co. (CO). 13 April, Brook-
ings Co. (EE).

Killdeer--Reported in late March in Deuel and Brown Co., surprisingly
late, considering early spring.

Golden Plover--14 flocks, up to 300/flock, Deuel and Roberts Co. (BKH).

Black-bellied Plover--12 May, Roberts Co., 1 (BKH). 18 May, Brown Co.
(RCS); only 2 reports.

Woodcock--1 May, Deuel Co. (BKH). 30 May, Roberts Co. (EmE). Both
records are breeding season dates for the species.

Solitary Sandpiper--Reports from Brown, Brookings, Faulk, and Stanley
Co. Few observations for this species in recent years.

Willet--23 April, Kingsbury Co. (BKH), early. 28 April, Pennington Co., 40
(JB), seldom observed in Black Hills.

Dunlin--27 April Deuel Co. (BKH), early date.

Semipalmated Sandpiper--21 April, Brown Co. (DAT), very early date.

Marbled Godwit--12 April, Faulk Co. (MM), very early date.

Hudsonian Godwit--Reports from Brown, Deuel, and Day Co.

Avocet--21 April, Brown Co. (DAT), early date. 1 May, Roberts Co.
(LLW).

Northern Phalarope--18 May, Brown Co., 15 (DAT), only record.

Franklin's Gull--1 April, Brown Co. (DAT), early date. 6 April Deuel Co.
(BKH). 12 April, Butte Co. (BR).

Black Tern--5 May, Brown Co. (DAT), early date.

Snowy Owl--18 March, Deuel Co. (BKH), late date for spring migrant.

Burrowing Owl--13 April, Pennington Co. (ML fide JB), early date.

Poor-will--22 May, Fall River Co., 9 singing birds in Red Canyon (RCR,
DJR).

Whip-poor-will--30 April, Codington Co. (NJH), earliest date ever and
seldom reported from the northeast.

Common Nighthawk--27 April, Brookings Co. (CT), earliest date ever.

White-throated Swift--19 April, Pennington Co., 17 (RCS).

Chimney Swift--27 April, Brookings Co. (CT), very early.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird--24 May, Day Co. (KH), only record.

Red-bellied Woodpecker--17 April, Roberts Co. (LLW).

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker--4 April, Deuel Co. (BKH). 4 April, Brookings Co. (TS fide NJH). Both records earliest ever.
- Great Crested Flycatcher--1 May, Brookings Co. (CT), earliest date ever.
- "Traill's" Flycatcher--7 May, Brown Co. (DAT), very early date.
- Tree Swallow--16 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 19 April, Day Co. (KH). Both records are early dates. 26 April, Pennington Co. (JB).
- Rough-winged Swallow--19 April, Brookings Co. (NJH), early date.
- Barn Swallow--21 April, Brookings Co. (NJH). 24 April, Deuel Co. (BKH). Both records are very early dates.
- Purple Martin--4 April, Deuel Co., 6 (DK). 4 April, Roberts Co., 2 (JC). Both records tie for earliest date ever. 5 April, Brookings Co. (OC).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch--23 April, Brown Co. (DAT), late date.
- House Wren--22 April, Brookings Co. (NJH), very early.
- Winter Wren--30 April, Moody Co. (LW). 28 April, Deuel Co, (EE, CO, BKH). Both records are late dates for this species.
- Gray Catbird--24 April, Brookings Co. (KH), early date.
- Sage Thrasher--28 May, Harding Co. (BR), breeding season date and new locality record for South Dakota.
- Varied Thrush--12 March, Brookings Co. (TS), possibly same bird reported on Brookings CBC?
- Hermit Thrush--20 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 28 April, Deuel Co. (EE, CO, BKH). 29 April, Brookings Co. (CO, NJH). A late migration this year.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush--8 May, Brown Co. (DAT), early date. 10 May Harding Co. (BR), seldom reported.
- Veery--12 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 13 May, Brookings Co. (CT). Both early dates. No date, Faulk Co. (MM).
- Eastern Bluebird--No observations from the northeast this year!
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet--8 April, Faulk Co. (MM), ties for earliest ever. 15 April, Brookings Co. (NJH). 16 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 17 May, Waubay NWR (LLW), very late date.
- Northern Shrike--29 April, Brookings Co. (KH, NJH, CO), latest date ever, bird carefully observed. 16 March, Custer Co. (JB), where seldom observed.
- Loggerhead Shrike--16 April, Waubay NWR (LLW). 17 April Haakon Co. (RCS).
- Bell's Vireo--17 May, Day Co. (RCS).
- Solitary Vireo--13 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 17 May, Brokings Co. (CO, NJH). 17 May, Day Co. (RCS).
- Philadelphia Vireo--17 May, Waubay NWR (LLW). 22 May, Brown Co. (DAT).
- Orange-crowned Warbler--23 April, Brown Co. (DAT).

Cape May Warbler--21 May, Brown Co. (DAT), dead on road.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler--17 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 19 April, Codington Co. (JH), both early records.

Black-throated Green Warbler--3 May, Day Co. (DAT), very early.

Blackburnian Warbler--records from Sanborn, Deuel, Brown, Marshall, Brookings, and Day Co.

Blackpoll Warbler--3 May, Day Co. (DAT), very early.

Pine Warbler--20 May, Brookings Co. (NJH), singing.

Palm Warbler--17 May, Waubay NWR (LLW). 8 May, Brown Co. (DAT).

Ovenbird--10-16 May, Brown Co., 10 banded (DAT).

Northern Waterthrush--1 May, Harding Co. (BR), uncommon in NW.

Wilson's Warbler--17 May, Waubay NWR, 3 (LLW). 10 May, Brown Co. (DAT).

American Redstart--15 May, Brown Co. (DAT). 17 May, Waubay NWR (LLW).

Brewer's Blackbird--16 March, Custer Co. (JB), very early date.

Scarlet Tanager--17 May, Deuel Co. (TS). 18 May, Day Co. (SDOU Spring Meeting, KH et al.).

Summer Tanager--18 May, Day Co. (SDOU Spring Meeting, KH et al.). There are only five other records for South Dakota. This male was seen by most participants in the spring meeting.

Cardinal--19 May, Sanborn Co. (BR). 17 March, Waubay NWR (RRJ), may be a wintering bird.

Purple Finch--8 May, Deuel Co. (BKH), male and female with nesting material but undoubtedly late migrants since normal range for nesting is 250 miles NE in Minnesota coniferous forests.

Cassin's Finch--1 March-7 May, Shannon Co. (MH). See note in *General Notes* section of this issue for details.

Rufous-sided Towhee--5 May, Brown Co. (DAT), few recent records from NE.

Vesper Sparrow--5 April, Perkins Co. (BR), early date.

Lark Sparrow--12 May, Codington Co., 3 (JH). This species is seldom reported from NE, where it was once a regular breeder.

Clay-colored Sparrow--23 April, Brown Co. (DAT), very early date.

Field Sparrow--22 May, Codington Co. (JH), earliest date ever.

Harris' Sparrow--20 March, Harding Co. (BR), wintering bird?

White-crowned Sparrow--Records from Brookings and Brown Co.

Fox Sparrow--None reported!

Swamp Sparrow--26 April, Faulk Co. (MM).

Song Sparrow--23 March, Brown Co. (DAT). 13 April, Harding Co. (BR).

Published by
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
Editor: Dr. Dan Tallman
NSC Box 740
Aberdeen, S.D. 57401

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 60
Aberdeen, S.D. 57401

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Printed by Quality Quick Print, 116 N Main, Aberdeen 57401
