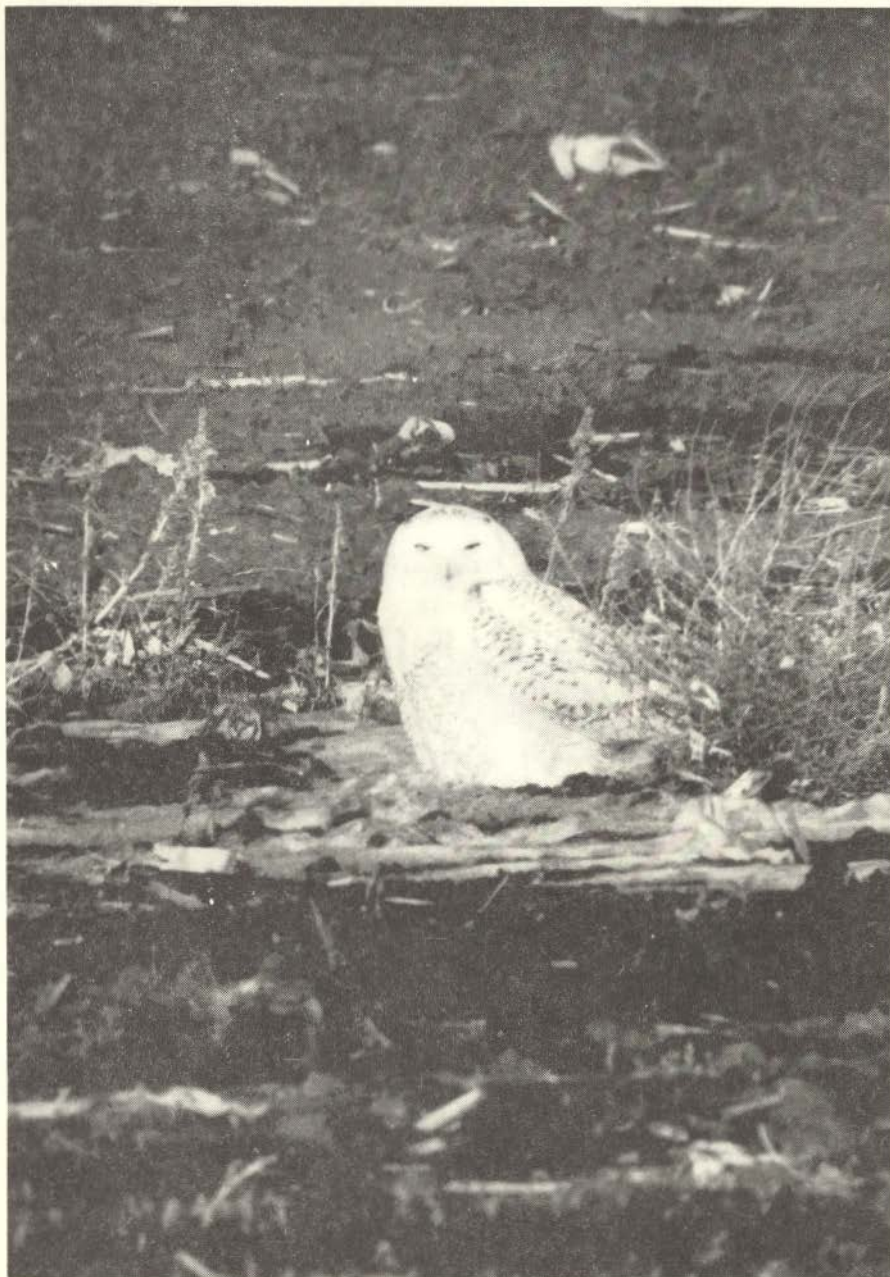


South Dakota Bird Notes

Vol. 33

March 1981

No. 1



SNOWY OWL

PHOTO: RON SPURER

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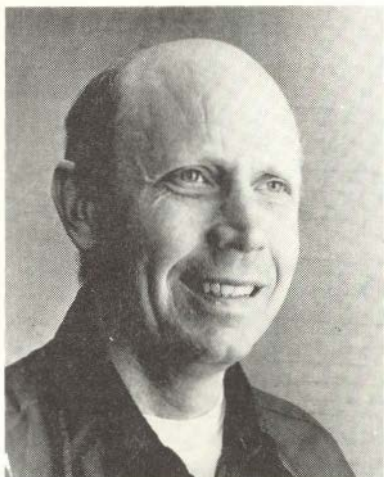
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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

SDOU FALL MEETING 26-28 September 1980

SDOU members gathered in Brookings for their annual fall meeting. Although a heavy overcast interfered with the Sunday field trip, the weather during the weekend was generally favorable. Registration and an informal social hour were held on Friday evening. Kent Jensen presented an excellent slide show entitled "Upper Newport Bay, the Natural History of a Coastal Wetland." His presentation emphasized the extreme importance of wetlands for all types of plants and animals, particularly birds. Upper Newport Bay, in southern California, is a vital resting area for many migratory and wintering birds.

The Saturday morning paper session started at 9:00 a.m. Two papers were presented. The first, entitled "Bird Awareness Among Early Great Plains People" by Gil W. Blankespoor, was presented by Nelda Holden. The other paper was a banding report on Goldfinches given by Dan Tallman from Aberdeen.

The annual meeting commenced about 10:50 a.m. The reports from various committees were accepted. The book sales of *Birds of South Dakota* are going well with only about 150 copies still available for retail. The main action of the general meeting was the acceptance of the changes in the constitution and bylaws as presented by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Finally, five members were elected to the Board of Directors. Everett C. Montgomery of Aberdeen was renominated. New people included Carol Oleson from Volga, Gertrice Hinds from Prairie City, Ron Spomer from Pierre, and Dan Tallman from Aberdeen.

In the afternoon, four more papers were presented. Nelda Holden discussed the possibility of using the amount of white in the outer rectrices to identify the sexes of the Dark-eyed Junco. Vernon Kirk talked about some of the strange ways of wildlife. A paper entitled "Site Tenacity Among Birders" by Gil Blankespoor was read by Nelda Holden. Finally, Jeremiah L. Maher and Scott Hereford from the University of South Dakota presented a slide-talk show about their research on raptors in Harding County.

At 3:20 p.m. the SDOU Board of Directors met. The incumbent officers were re-elected with the exception that Dan Tallman accepted the position of librarian in addition to his editorship. Current officers are listed on the inside front cover of this issue of *Bird Notes*. The Spring Meeting will be in

Spearfish, SD, on 22 - 24 May 1981. The Fall Meeting will be in Aberdeen, SD. The Board of Directors passed a resolution to support the deauthorization of the Oahe Project.

The banquet at the Holiday Inn began at 6:00 p.m. An excellent variety of food was served. The evening program, "Birding in Iran," was presented by Carol Oleson. Carol showed slides of birds she saw while being stationed in Iran. This presentation was very entertaining since most of us are not familiar with Iranian birds.

On Sunday morning the group met at Oakwood Lakes State Park for a field trip. In spite of poor light, 62 species were found. Sunday noon dinner was at the Silver Bell in Volga, where an excellent meal was enjoyed. After the dinner, we went to the Volga City Park to have our species call-off.

Registration at the 1980 Fall Meeting:

Aberdeen--Everett and Jeanette Montgomery, Dan, Erika, and David Tallman. Brookings--Ross and Ann Baker, Orena Cooper, Bennett and Gladyce Froiland, Dave, Nelda, and Arthur Holden, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Huggins, Kenneth and Patsy Husmann, Kent Jensen, Vernon Kirk, Edwin Perley, Larry Novotny, Lois and Darrell Wells. Bruce--Dick and Esther Edie. Burke--Galen Steffen. Clear Lake--Bruce Harris, Walt Rose. Hot Springs--Teresa A. Meyer. Huron--J. W. and Blanche Johnson. Madison--Robert Buckman. Meckling--Bill Lemons. Prairie City--Alfred and Gertrice Hinds. Rapid City--Florence L. Baylor, L. M. and Mary E. Baylor, Jocelyn L. Baker. Sioux Falls--Charles and Gladyce Rogge. Sisseton--Marie Hollen. Vermillion--Byron Harrell, Jeremiah L. Maher, Scott Hereford. Volga--George and Carol Oleson. Watertown--Jim Herrig. Webster--Ellen Williamson. White--Florence Kurtz. St. Paul, MN--Don Adolphson, Ron Wolf. Omaha, NE--Clyde and Emma Johnson. Wisner, NE--John and Willetha Lueshen.

Species list for the SDOU Fall meeting, 28 September 1980.

All the 62 bird species were sighted in Brookings Co. and the majority of them were found in Oakwood Lakes State Park. The sky was heavily overcast, a south wind blew at 5-10 mph, and the temperature was 54° F.

Western Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
White Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
Mallard
Gadwall
Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
American Wigeon

Northern Shoveler
Wood Duck
Redhead
Lesser Scaup
Red-tailed Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Prairie Falcon
American Kestrel
Ring-necked Pheasant
Gray Partridge
Turkey
American Coot

Killdeer
 Ring-billed Gull
 Franklin's Gull
 Rock Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Great Horned Owl
 Belted Kingfisher
 Common Flicker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Rough-winged Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Blue Jay
 Common Crow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 House Wren
 Long-billed Marsh Wren

American Robin
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Cedar Waxwing
 Starling
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 House Sparrow
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Purple Finch
 American Goldfinch
 Vesper Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 White-crowned Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow

This revised Constitution and Bylaws of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union was adopted at the Union's Annual Business Meeting, 27 September 1980, at Brookings, South Dakota - L.M. Baylor.

Constitution and Bylaws of THE SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

ARTICLE I. Name--Object

Section 1. This association shall be known as the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union.

Section 2. Its aim shall be to encourage the study of birds in South Dakota and to promote the study of ornithology by more closely uniting the students of this branch of natural science.

ARTICLE II. Membership

Section 1. Any person age 16 or older and sympathetic with the Union's objectives may become an active member of this Union.

Section 2. Any person at least 10 years old but less than 16 years of age is eligible to become a junior member of this Union.

Section 3. Honorary members may be elected for their eminence in ornithology or from among the members of the Union for distinguished service in furthering the aims of the Union.

Section 4. Honorary Membership shall commence in the calendar year following approval by a two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual business meeting and shall continue until the honorary member's death or resignation. Life membership shall commence from the payment of the specified dues and shall continue until death or resignation. All other categories of active membership shall comprise a calendar year upon payment of the specified dues. The categories of active membership shall include honorary members, life members, sustaining members, family members (husband and wife), and regular members.

Section 5. Active members may vote at annual meetings, hold office, and serve on committees.

Section 6. All members shall receive gratis one copy of periodicals that this Union may publish for distribution to its members.

Section 7. Except for the categories of honorary and life memberships, active membership shall terminate for nonpayment of annual dues.

ARTICLE III. Officers-Directors

- Section 1. The officers of this Union shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Editor, and a Librarian, chosen from among the Directors. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, one person may hold the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, and one person may hold the offices of Editor and Librarian.
- Section 2. The duties of the President shall be to preside at meetings of the Union and of the Board of Directors, to appoint committees, to call necessary meetings of the Directors, and to perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office.
- Section 3. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence or incapacity, assist the President, and perform such other duties as are delegated by the President.
- Section 4. The Secretary shall keep a record of the meetings of the Union and of the Board of Directors, conduct the general correspondence of the Union, and perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office.
- Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect dues, receive and have charge of all moneys of the Union, pay all bills that are the Union's legal obligation, and perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office.
- Section 6. The Editor shall edit and superintend the printing of the Union's periodical publications.
- Section 7. The Librarian shall preserve the books, other publications, and unpublished documents possessed by the Union.
- Section 8. The duties of the Directors shall be to establish general policies of the Union, determine the place and date of the annual business meeting, provide for periodic audits of the Treasurer's records, fulfill other duties given to them by the Constitution and Bylaws, and perform such other duties as may be necessary for the furtherance of the Union's objectives. The Directors may act by correspondence upon any matters that properly come to their attention.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings

- Section 1. The annual business meeting of the Union shall be at such time and place as is selected by the Directors.
- Section 2. Such special meetings of the Union or of the Board of Directors as are necessary may be called by the President with the approval of a majority of the Directors.
- Section 3. The quorum for transaction of business at an annual business meeting or special meeting of the Union shall be nine active members.
- Section 4. The quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be five Directors.

ARTICLE V. Elections

- Section 1. Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Union by a majority vote of the active members present.
- Section 2. The term of office for elected Directors shall be three years and shall commence at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. Five directors shall be elected annually for a term of three years. In addition to the 15 elected directors, there shall be a category of directors composed of the past presidents of this Union. The term of office for the Past-President Directors shall commence upon completion of their terms as President and upon expiration of their three-year terms as elected directors. The term of office for a Past-President Director shall continue until death, resignation from the position, or resignation from the Union by nonpayment of dues. The Past-President Directors shall have full voting privileges on the Board of Directors and may be elected to offices of this Union.
- Section 3. Immediately following each annual meeting and election of Directors, the Directors shall meet and select the officers of the Union for the ensuing year from among the Directors as provided in Article III, Section 1.
- Section 4. Nominations for elected Directors shall be made by a Nominating Committee of three members appointed by the President. Nominations for a Director may be made from the floor at the annual business meeting after the Nominating Committee has presented its slate of nominees. If there are more than five nominees for Directors, the voting shall be by secret ballot.

ARTICLE VI. Dues

- Section 1. The Board of Directors shall determine the annual dues for the various categories of membership and the dues for life membership.
- Section 2. Annual memberships shall be on the basis of a calendar year, with renewal memberships due on the first day of January.

ARTICLE VII. Amendment

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of active members present at an annual business meeting, provided that all members have been given at least 30 days' notice of the proposed amendment.

BYLAWS

Section 1. The officers and directors may be reimbursed for the actual amount expended by them in carrying out their necessary official duties.

Section 2. The Union encourages any person presenting a paper at a meeting to submit the paper to the Editor for possible publication or to submit a copy to the Librarian for the Union's archives.

Section 3. The order of business at the annual meeting shall be as follows: (1) reading of minutes for the previous meeting, (2) reports by officers, (3) reports by committees, (4) old business, (5) new business, (6) any other appropriate special business, (7) adjournment. Generally accepted parliamentary procedure shall prevail for all meetings.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall determine the place of an annual meeting approximately twelve months in advance. The Directors, in concurrence with the host committee, shall determine the precise date of the annual meeting approximately six months in advance.

Section 5. Upon at least 30 days' notice to the members, special meetings of the Union as are necessary may be called by the President with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. The President shall appoint the Nominating Committee approximately six months in advance of the annual meeting at which the Nominating Committee shall submit its slate of nominees for Directors. An incumbent elected Director who has not attended at least three directors' meetings during his or her previous three-year term of office shall not be eligible for re-election as a Director unless a majority of the Board of Directors identifies acceptable extenuating circumstances for the nonattendance.

Section 7. The Bylaws of the Union may be amended by vote of a majority of the members present at an annual business meeting, provided that the members have been given at least 30 days' notice of the proposed amendment.



Marbled Godwit

MARCH 1981

Photo: E. Montgomery

Site Tenacity Among Birders or You Don't Have to Leave Home to See Birds

by **Gil Blankespoor**

Department of Biology
Augustana College
Sioux Falls 57101

Introduction

People everywhere are taking up the hobby of birdwatching. These days you can often encounter people who move with a particular walk-and-stop gait, have binoculars constantly at the ready, and gaze intently and expectantly at every object in their natural environment. Birding enjoys a respectability it did not previously hold. No longer do persons outside the fraternity automatically snicker or wink knowingly when they see an enthusiastic birder.

But something about today's birding disturbs me. Too many people are interested solely in lengthening their species list. These inveterate listers appear to have the mentality of a collector and seem to have little desire to learn more about the biology and natural history of birds. Some people in the field today have become, in effect, slob birders. Trying to add a species to their list, they sometimes exert a negative influence on the environment by destroying habitat and disrupting bird behavior.

Not all listers fit this description. The majority of birders who keep lists are also sensitive to bird biology. I include myself among those who enjoy sighting a rare species. Nevertheless, species lists compiled on the basis of sightings in different places and times are of dubious value because they supply little information about such things as temporal distribution, changes in population size, and patterns in habitat utilization. Another reason why extensive and repeated travel from place to place in search of birds borders on being reprehensible is the very urgent need to conserve energy. It is difficult to justify traveling tens and even hundreds of miles to observe birds when this activity has little other than entertainment value.

But one doesn't have to curtail his birding activity. What I suggest is that we spend more time in our own "backyards" observing birds in a regular, systematic way. When I refer to "backyard," I have in mind natural areas that are in easy driving (or even walking) distance from our homes. My guess is that such areas exist for most of us. Examples include city parks, cemeteries, woodlots, farm groves, creek bottoms, or stretches along rivers. In this article I will describe the birds I observed in my "backyard" during the spring of 1980.

My "Backyard"

The area I visited regularly this past spring and early summer is a portion of the Big Sioux River floodplain operated by the Sioux Falls YMCA as its Leif Erickson Day Camp (Figure 1). The Day Camp lies within the city limits of Sioux Falls and is immediately adjacent to I-229, a heavily traveled highway. Vegetation in this area consists of patches of open, mowed grassland alternating with patches of mature river bottom forest. The grassland is dominated by Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and Smooth Brome (*Dromus inermis*), while the woodlands are dominated by Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanicus*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Silver Maple (*Acer Saccharinum*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and Box Elder (*Acer negundo*). The acreage of the two vegetation types is about equal. The entire floodplain strip is about ½ mi long and averages 300 feet wide.

In no sense is the area free from human influence. During the winter, snowmobilers make extensive use of the river ice and, all year, joggers, hikers, and bicylists use the asphalt path that parallels the river. In the camp itself, the wooded areas are developed with trails, canopied campsites, an elevated platform, and scattered monkey-jungle structures. Beginning in early June the Day Camp is used almost continuously; before June, it is regularly visited by a variety of outdoor recreationists.

Log of Visits to the Leif Erickson Day Camp

10 March 1980—Time: 4-5 p.m. Temp.: mid-30's ° F

Wind: NW, 0-10 mph Sky: cloudy

Although little snow cover exists, the river and floodplain are still in winter's grip; no water lies open, the tree buds continue to lie dormant, and the vegetation below shows no hint of green, only brown. Felled saplings and wood chips indicate that beaver have been active all winter. Spring migrants have not yet arrived; the only birds seen are those hardy species that have endured the long winter with us. The most exciting observation is a single Great Horned Owl.

Species observed are: Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Horned Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Starling, House Sparrow, and Cardinal.

12 April 1980—Time: 3-4:30 p.m. Temp.: high 40's ° F

Wind: SE, 10-15 mph Sky: cloudy to partly cloudy

Except for thin slivers of open water along the banks, the river is still frozen. But most welcome is the fact that the buds of Silver Maples have just broken. Underfoot, too, spring is beginning to take hold. In open areas, cool-season grasses such as Kentucky Bluegrass and Smooth Brome have begun their growth and scattered here and there are newly emerged individuals of dock (*Rumex* sp.). In the forest, Golden Glow (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), and a species of violet (*Violet* sp.) are beginning to grow. The birds seen this afternoon are a mixture of permanent residents, winter residents, and spring migrants, some of which will stay to breed. Some individuals are singing; it's good to hear the woods ring with bird song once again. The highlights of today's visit are two Woodcock.



Figure 1. Portion of the Big Sioux River floodplain visited regularly during the spring of 1980.

Species observed are: Great Blue Heron (2), Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck (many), American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Woodcock (2), Common Snipe, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Common (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Purple Martin (overhead), Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin (many), Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird (many), Common Grackle (many), Cardinal, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow (one singing).

20 April 1980—Time: 7-8:30 a.m. Temp.: high 40's ° F

Wind: S, 0-10 mph Sky: clear

Spring is much in evidence. Willow (*Salix* sp.) and cottonwood catkins are especially obvious. Gooseberry (*Ribes missouriense*) is beginning to leaf out. The big, bold leaves of Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum sphondylium*) are sticking up through the leaf litter on the forest floor. In the deepest part of one of the woodland patches, honeybees are entering and leaving a hive tree. Here and there, Mourning Cloak Butterflies flit from tree to tree. The birds today are migrants and summer residents; winter residents have moved north to their breeding grounds. Nothing unusual is observed but a number of "ought to be here" species have made their appearance.

Species observed are: Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Bobwhite (calling), Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin (singing), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird (singing), Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow (singing), Song Sparrow.

27 April 1980—Time: 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Temp.: mid 50's° F
Wind: N, 0-5 mph Sky: clear

Especially noticeable are the Box Elders, whose leaves are almost fully expanded and whose male flowers show their long anthers. Other species of trees and shrubs are also leafing out. These include Green Ash, American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), and Wild Honeysuckle (*Lonicera dioica*). A number of herbaceous plants are also blooming, including Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Ground Ivy, and a species of violet. Turtles bask in the sun on a partially submerged log in one of the side channels of the river. How swiftly time passes by! Today American Robins and Mourning Doves are nesting. A noteworthy late arrival is the Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Species observed are: Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Common (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler (many), House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird (on territory), Common Grackle (nesting), Cardinal, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

4 May 1980—Time: 7-9 a.m. Temp.: low 50's° F
Wind: calm Sky: clear

Today Ground Ivy and violets are in full bloom. The Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*) and gooseberry are also blossoming. The Green Ash is beginning to leaf out and the samaras of the Silver Maple are robust and ready to fall. I am surprised to see Woodcock again, this time quite a distance north of where I had seen them earlier. I am thrilled to hear the minor key melody of the White-throated Sparrow.

Species observed are: Green Heron (2), Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Woodcock (2), Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (singing), Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush (singing), House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

15 May 1980—Time: 7-8:30 a.m. Temp.: upper 40's° F
Wind: NW, 5-10 mph Sky: partly cloudy

The transition from the grays and browns of winter to the green of spring is now complete. The newly expanded leaves on the trees are

especially beautiful--clean and lustrous and entire. In just a few weeks, many of the leaves will be dusty, have portions chewed out by insects, and be otherwise marred by assorted fungal and viral diseases. This week the spectacularly blossoming plant species are the Wild Honeysuckle and the Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*). One of the very last trees to break winter dormancy, the Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), is finally beginning to leaf out.

Among the birds this morning, there are many migrants. This day may be the best of the year to observe small migrating species. Every tree has birds moving through its branches: calls come from every direction. This morning proves to be one of the highlights of my birding year.

Species observed are: Green Heron, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Upland Sandpiper (calling), Franklin's Gull (overhead), Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Solitary Vireo (singing), Red-eyed Vireo (singing), Warbling Vireo (singing), Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Goldfinch, Harris' Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.
25 May 1980--Time: 6:30-8:00 a.m. Temp.: upper 50's °F

Wind: E, 5-10 mph Sky: clear

In about a week camp activities will begin, so this trip will be my last of the spring season. This morning a new set of plants is in full blossom, including Red Osier (*Cornus stolonifera*), Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Philadelphia Fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*), and Virginia Waterleaf.

Most of the birds today are summer residents, although a few late migrants also occur. Male Dickcissels, among the very last breeding birds to arrive in the spring, have been on their territories only a day or two.

Evidence abounds that the birds and other animals have been about the business of producing their next generation. The carp are spawning and several young cottontail rabbits are feeding in the grass at the edge of the woodland. With very little effort, I locate single nests of each of the following species: Black-capped Chickadee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Yellow Warbler.

Species observed are: Black-crowned Night Heron (flying overhead), Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk (flying overhead), Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Common (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Willow Flycatcher (singing), Least Flycatcher (singing), Eastern Wood Pewee, Bank Swallow, Barn

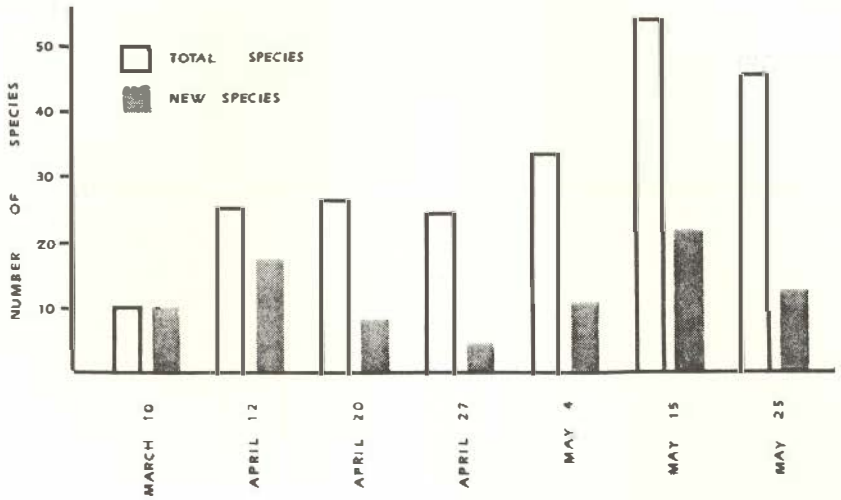


Figure 2. Total species and number of new species seen during each of seven field trips.

Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush (singing), Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Conclusions and Summary

From 10 March to 25 May 1980, I made seven visits to the YMCA Leif Erickson Day Camp. During each visit, I recorded the total number of species and the number of new species that I observed (Figure 2). Altogether, I saw a total of 82 species. Since my visits were relatively infrequent and their duration relatively short, I don't doubt that some species were missed. The dates are not to be interpreted as dates of first arrival for the species. These trips were of little or no drain on energy resources, provided some useful information, and gave me many hours of enjoyable birding.

GENERAL NOTES

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN BROOKINGS COUNTY.--On the evening of 18 May 1979, Tom Lowin and I discovered a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in mid-eastern South Dakota. We first noticed the bird when we drove up to the ticket booth at Oakwood Lakes State Park. We could plainly see the unusually long tail as the bird flew from branch to branch about 50 yards away. We studied the flycatcher for about five minutes while it flew about the tree tops catching insects. It made no sound while we watched. We returned to the area several times during the weekend but never again saw the bird.--Bob Spomer, Pierre 57501.

RARE AND UNUSUAL BIRDS SIGHTED AT THE BIG SIOUX NURSERY, CODINGTON COUNTY.--The Big Sioux Nursery, near Watertown, with its numerous shelterbelts of pine, honeysuckle, and cottonwood, provides a unique bird habitat on the Prairie Coteau. Bordering the Big Sioux River, Lake Kampeska, and several potholes, the nursery becomes the crossroads for a variety of birds that rarely occur in South Dakota.

On 19 February 1980, I saw an unusual winter visitor to my bird feeder--a Cooper's Hawk. Its reddish-striped breast, barred tail, and relatively large size made it fairly easy to identify. I suspect it sat in the lilac bushes hunting mice or small birds that collect seeds from under the feeder.

Up to 15 Red Crossbills visited my feeder over the winter (1979-80). The immature males became progressively redder as spring approached. Most of the crossbills left the nursery in late March. But, oddly, one pair remained and gathered nesting materials. On about 22 April 1980, they were seen feeding two young birds in an elm tree. I know of only one previous East River nesting record in South Dakota.

At 5:00 a.m. on 30 April 1980, my wife and I were awakened by the clear, crisp calling of a Whip-poor-will. We listened to the repeated calls for several minutes. For days afterwards, I listened in the mornings and evenings, but I never heard it again.

I sighted a Common Loon on a small pond about 2 mi south of the nursery on 19 June 1980. The pond is not known to contain fish. This loon's presence during the breeding season suggests that it may have been injured.

A pair of Green Herons was seen nesting on the nursery in a row of Green Ash that is completely surrounded by Ponderosa Pine. The herons were present during the last two summers (1979 and 1980). I located a nest on 26 June 1980 that contained shells from two or three eggs. No young have been sighted although the adults returned to the pine thicket each night.

I heard a Mockingbird in early June 1980. On 22 July 1980, a pair of Western Kingbirds noisily attempted to drive a mature Mockingbird from

their territory. With 7x binoculars, I observed the mocker in flight and on the ground (from about 70 feet). No nest or other Mockingbirds were observed.

Since I began compiling records early in the spring of 1980, I have observed 69 species on this quarter section of land. I suspect another 45 to 50 species occur. The Big Sioux Nursery is operated by the Division of Forestry of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and is open to the public.--Jim Herrig, Watertown 57201.

HOODED MERGANSER NESTING IN BROOKINGS COUNTY.--A Hooded Merganser hen was discovered nesting in Brookings Co. on 22 May 1980. Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*, list the Hooded Merganser as a "rare to uncommon transient throughout East River area . . . Probably nests in state, but no records."

The nest was located in a newly erected cedar Wood Duck box along the Big Sioux River, about 3 mi south of Brookings. Ten eggs, the entire clutch in the box, hatched during the first week of June.--Randy L. Smith, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, SDSU, Brookings 57007.

SURPRISE AT 6900 FEET.--On 12 October 1980, while birding in the northern Black Hills at an elevation of 6900 feet near the intersection of Highway 85 and the Terry Peak Fire Tower Road, we sighted an adult Saw-whet Owl. Our attention was attracted by an agitated Golden-crowned Kinglet in a deciduous shrub, where a small, silent owl perched about four feet from the ground. The owl remained there for fifteen minutes, silently studying us as we not so quietly observed it. Everett took photographs while Jeanette and I noted that the bird had all the field marks characteristic of adult Saw-whet Owls that one can find in the standard field guides. The one exception to the usual field marks was that the right eye's iris was yellow whereas the left iris was totally black, lacking any trace of color. The left eyelid occasionally drooped half-closed and several times closed completely. The owl was quite tame. We got within 24 inches of the bird before it flew into an adjacent spruce where it alighted about 12 feet above the ground. From its mouth, the owl expelled a pellet containing a partial shrew jaw.--Jocelyn Lee Baker, Rapid City 57701 and Jeanette and Everett Montgomery, Aberdeen 57401.

WHOOPING CRANES IN PERKINS COUNTY.--On 12 October 1980, I saw four adult Whooping Cranes at Sorum Dam, Perkins Co., South Dakota. I first observed the birds at 12 p.m. at a distance of about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Later I approached within 400 yards of the birds. They were standing in shallow water that was about three inches below the birds' ankle joints. The water level behind Sorum Dam was low, exposing mud flats resembling a shallow marsh. Scattered mats of submergent vegetation were visible. The birds had good lateral visibility making approach by predators difficult.

All the birds were adults. The wings were folded with no black feathers visible. The legs were very dark, the beaks were dusky, and the

crown/forehead patch appeared black but reflected a dull red when the light was just right. No color markings or Fish and Wildlife Service bands were visible.

The birds stood on a line facing into and parallel to the axis of an ESE wind blowing at about 25 mph. Three birds were resting with their heads and necks on their backs or under their wings. The largest bird faced directly into the wind in front of the others and was alert at all times. On occasion, the other three would wake up, ruffle their feathers, shift their feet, and then resume the resting position. The birds made no noises. Occasionally the larger, lead bird probed the water with its beak in a desultory fashion.

Whoopers prefer to fly with the wind. Often they wait until winds are favorable before continuing their migratory flights. Darell Tilberg, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks' Conservation Officer, kept the birds under observation on 13 October 1980. At about 8:30 a.m., the birds took flight, leaving the area. Tilberg saw a mottled-colored crane with the four Whoopers, but he was unable to make a positive identification of it.

All people seeing Whooping Cranes are urged to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Pierre, South Dakota, at 605-224-8692 or their local Conservation Officer.--Richard L. Hill, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pierre 57501.

GREEN HERON NEST AT PAUL L. ERRINGTON MEMORIAL MARSH.--While working on the Cooperative Dove Survey of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at South Dakota State University (Brookings), I discovered an active Green Heron nest in a shelterbelt on one of my five study plots. This 8-row shelterbelt lies on the south side of the Paul L. Errington Memorial Marsh Waterfowl Production Area, 2 mi north and 7 mi west of Bruce, Brookings Co.

The nest was made of 0.64 cm and smaller diameter sticks. It rested where the limbs of 2 junipers (*Juniperus* Spp.) crossed about 3.15 meters from the ground. The diameter of the nest equalled 29.4 cm, similar to data mentioned by Bent (1926).

The nest contained five gray, downy young on 7 July 1980. Whitney et al. (1978) report two young in a nest at Oakwood Lakes on 22 June 1973 and three young near Wall Lake on 7 July 1973, but they give no indication of age. After comparing my photographs (Figure 1) with those in Bent (1926), I determined the five young in my nest to range in age from about two to six days when first discovered.

When I returned to the study plot on 16 July, I checked the nest and took more photographs. One of the five young herons lay dead among the remaining of the dull bluish eggs on the ground beneath the nest. It apparently had been blown out of the nest by the strong winds during a severe rainstorm on the previous day.

Scott E. Norelius (wildlife graduate student research assistant, SDSU) photographed the young birds on 21 July and witnessed the fledging of three of the four remaining birds on 28 July. Presumably the fourth bird



Figure 1. Fledgling Green Herons

fledged prior to Norelius' arrival at the nest site. As reported by Bent (1926), these birds could fly before they reached four weeks of age.

Burns (1915) reports the incubation period for Green Herons to be 17 days, so nesting began around 16 June. Moriarty (1965) reported Green Herons nesting between mid-May and mid-June. This nest, as well as the Oakwood Lakes nest previously cited, shows that some nesting activity may, in fact, occur at later dates.

Moriarty (1965) recorded nesting near Milbank and Watertown. Sightings without nest documentation include Redfield along the James River (Moriarty 1965), Pickerel Lake (Chilson 1965), and several in other northeastern counties (Whitney et al. 1978). Bent (1926) described the breeding range of the Green Heron as north to Vermillion, South Dakota, and probably Sioux Falls. This nesting record, Moriarty's previous records, and Herring's (1981) record reported in this issue of *Bird Notes* show a possible expansion of the breeding range in the last 60 years.

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THE 1980 FALL MIGRATION

by **Bruce Harris**

Box 605, Clear Lake 57226

This fall was warm and dry across South Dakota. Although the NE enjoyed a fair flight of Snow Geese, other waterfowl were scarce in that sector. Records for all the species of northern finches, the Snowy Owl, and the Bohemian Waxwing forecast an interesting winter season. The outstanding records for the fall include Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Barn Owl, Saw-whet Owl, California Gull in Bennett Co., and Rosy Finch in Brookings Co. Other good sightings are bold-faced in the following account. Earliest-ever records were reported for three species and latest-ever records were mentioned for 16 birds.

The following people contributed their records or those of others to this report: Jocie Baker (JB); James Cole (JC); Robert Edens (RE); John Hagen (JH); Willis Hall (WH); Dean Halleck (DH); Reda Hansen (RH); Bruce Harris (BKH); Jim Herrig (JH); Rich Hill (RH); Gervase Hittle (GH); Nelda Holden (NJH); Carolyn Hoover (KH); Kenneth Husmann (KJH); Patsy Husmann (PH); Tom Kuck (TK); Ann Kunsee (AK); Br. Mike Larscheid (MK); Eilly Limburg (EL); B. Luce (BL); Ernest Miller (EM); Mrs. Harvey Mills (HM); Everett Montgomery (ECM); Carol Oleson (CO); Marjorie Parker (MP); Richard Peterson (RP); Bob Rogers (BR); Dorothy J. Rosche (DJR); Richard R. Rosche (RCR); Esther Serr (ES); William Schultze (WS); SDOU field trip (SDOU); Ron Spomer (RS); Galen Steffen (GS); Bill Stone (BS); Dan Tallman (DAT); Charles Taylor (CT); Walt Thieje (WT); Robert Trusler (RT); Sam Waldstein (SW); Linda Watters (LW); Lois E. Wells (LEW); Nat Whitney (NRW); Julie Wilcox (JW).

Common Loon--27 November, Roberts Co., very late (BKH).
 Horned Grebe--12 October, Harding Co. (BR).
 White Pelican--28 October, Pierre, late date (RS). 24 October, Waubay NWR (LW).
 Double-crested Cormorant--10 November, Sand Lake NWR, very late (SW).
 Great Blue Heron--25 November, Sand Lake NWR, late (WS). 13 November, Roberts Co. (BKH).
 Snowy Egret--16 September, Day Co., 2 (LW).
 Cattle Egret--17 September, Brookings Co., 200 (in an area where nesting probably occurred for some time) (AK fide NJH). 3 October, Codington Co. (LW).
 Great Egret--31 August, Brown Co., 10 (TK). 21 October, Deuel Co., latest on record (DH fide BKH).
 American Bittern--5 November, Sand Lake NWR, very late (WS).
 White-faced Ibis--5 September, Sand Lake NWR (RE).
 Whistling Swan--24 November, Day Co., 700-800 (LW, BKH, KH). 22 November, Charles Mix Co. (WID).
 Trumpeter Swan--21 November, LaCreek NWR, 49 (RCR).
 Canada Goose--31 November, Deuel Co., 13 (BKII).
 Hutchinson's Goose--23 November, Deuel Co., very late for this subspecies (BKH).
 White-fronted Goose--23 September, Deuel Co., 1, only report from NE this fall (BKH)! 9 October, LaCreek NWR, 17 (RCR). 21 November, LaCreek NWR, 1 (RCR).
 Snow Goose--20 November, Sand Lake NWR, 105,000 (SW). 2 December, Deuel Co., 200, latest ever (BS fide BKII).
 Gadwall--27 November, Clay Co., ties for latest ever (KH).
 Pintail--22 November, Roberts Co., latest ever, not crippled (BKH). 11 November, Gregory Co., 6 (GS). 15 November, Harding Co., 50 (BR).
 Blue-winged Teal--27 September, Harding Co. (BR).
 American Wigeon--28 November, Pennington Co., 14 (JB).
 Northern Shoveler--17 November, Pennington Co., late date (NRW).
 Common Goldeneye--11 November, Pennington Co. (NRW). 21 November, Day Co. (KH). 15 November, Harding Co. (BR).
 Barrow's Goldeneye--17-28 November, Canyon Lake, Pennington Co. (JB). This rare species was also found at Canyon Lake during the 1978 and 1979 winters.
 Bufflehead--5 September, Sand Lake NWR, earliest ever (SW). 2 October, Deuel Co. (BKH). 9 October, LaCreek NWR (RCR). 23 November, Pennington Co. (JB) and 23 November, Gregory Co. (GS), tie for latest ever.
 Oidsguaw--19 and 30 November, Clay Co., very late date (WH).
 White-winged Scoter--12 November, Deuel Co., 6 (BKH).
 Surf Scoter--23 October, Clay Co. (WH).
 Black Scoter--6-12 November, Clay Co., 2 (WH). 17 November, Clay Co., latest ever (WH).
 Hooded Merganser--Reports from Brown, Clay, Pennington, and Hughes Co.
 Common Merganser--17 August, Pennington Co., breeding or cripple? (NRW, JB). Few in NE but 22 November, Charles Mix Co., 7600 (WH).
 Red-shouldered Hawk--4 October, Clay Co., no details (WH).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk--Reports from Codington, Brookings, and Hughes Co. 22 November, Pierre, a late date (RS). 6 observed during fall in Gregory Co. (GS).
 Cooper's Hawk--Reports from Lyman, Pennington, Harding, Day, Deuel, and Gregory Co.
 Broad-winged Hawk--Reports from Lincoln, Grant, Roberts, and Brown Co.
 Swainson's Hawk--22 November, Bon Homme Co., latest ever (JW). 28 September, Mellefic Co., 110 (RAP). 2 November, Clay Co., 100 (GH).
 Golden Eagle--18 September, Sand Lake NWR (WS).
 Bald Eagle--17 September, Pennington Co., early (JB). More reports than usual from 7 counties.

Marsh Hawk--31 November, Deuel Co. latest ever (BKH). 25 November, Deuel Co. (BKH).
 Osprey--Many more reports than usual from Minnehaha, Custer, Gregory, Brookings, Brown,
 Bennett, Fall River, Deuel, and Roberts Co.

Prairie Falcon--6 observations in Deuel Co., more than any season during last 10 years (BKH).
 Also Brown Co. (RE) and Brookings Co. (SDOU).

Merlin--Reports from Lincoln, Harding, and Pennington Co.

Ruffed Grouse--5 October, near Sylvan Lake in Black Hills (RCR).

Sage Grouse--25 November, Harding Co., 20 (BR).

Gray Partridge--2 November, Gregory Co. (GS). Down in NE after 3-year high.

Whooping Crane--19 October, Perkins Co., 4 at Sorum (RH). West of usual Missouri River
 route.

Sandhill Crane--19 November, Gregory Co., late date (GS). 15 November, Lyman Co. (WT).
 31 October, Harding Co., 2000 (BR). 8 October, Brown Co. (SW).

Killdeer--13 November, Roberts Co., late date (BKH). 11 November, Roberts Co. (BKH, KH).
 21 October, Harding Co. (BR).

Black-bellied Plover--14, 20, and 21 September, Clay Co. (WH). 25 September, Clay Co., 10
 (KJH). 19 August, LaCreek NWR, early (RCR).

Ruddy Turnstone--16 September, Clay Co. (KJH). Seldom reported in fall.

American Woodcock--19 September, Grant Co. (ML).

Common Snipe--11 November, Pierre (RS). 26 December, Brown Co. (DAT).

Spotted Sandpiper--14 September, Harding Co. (BR).

Pectoral Sandpiper--19 August, LaCreek NWR, 150, very large concentration for this area
 (RCR, DJR). 12 October, Harding Co. (BR).

Baird's Sandpiper--19 August, LaCreek NWR, 1500, extremely high count for this uncommon
 West River migrant (RCR, DJR). 20 September, LaCreek NWR, 400 (RCR, DJR). 20
 September, Harding Co. (BR).

Least Sandpiper--19 August, LaCreek NWR, 200 (RCR, DJR). 20 September, LaCreek NWR,
 35 (RCR, DJR).

Dunlin--28 October and 2 November, Clay Co. (WH). Rare in fall.

Sanderling--24 August-28 October, 210 observations (WH). 20 September and 25 September,
 LaCreek NWR, 5-15 (RCR, DJR).

Long-billed Dowitcher--19 August, LaCreek NWR, 125 (RCR, DJR).

Stilt Sandpiper--19 August, LaCreek NWR, 100 (RCR, DJR). 20 September, LaCreek NWR, 3
 (RCR, DJR).

American Avocet--19 August, LaCreek NWR, 15 (RCR, DJR). 20 September, LaCreek NWR,
 12 (RCR, DJR). 14 October, Sand Lake NWR (SW).

Northern Phalarope--21 September, Roberts Co., 1 (BKH). 23 September, Deuel Co., 5
 (BKH). 19 August and 20 September, LaCreek NWR (RCR, DJR).

Herring Gull--9 October, LaCreek NWR, (RCR). One of few West River records.

California Gull--20 September, LaCreek NWR (RCR, DJR). Full adult, good details.

Bonaparte's Gull--4 September, Brown Co. (DAT). None in NE (BKH).

Barn Owl--8 October, Custer Co. (RH, JH).

Snowy Owl--13 reports from Clark, Codington, Brown, Perkins, Deuel, Grant, Roberts, and
 Brookings Co.

Burrowing Owl--19 August, LaCreek NWR, 37 (RCR, DJR).

Long-eared Owl--18 October, Brown Co. (ECM).

Saw-whet Owl--21 August, Pennington Co., dead on road (NRW). 12 October, Lawrence Co.
 (ECM, JB). 11 October, Brown Co., banded (DAT).

Whip-poor-will--12 September, Yankton Co. (JW).

Chimney Swift--29 September, Clay Co. (KJH). 28 September, Yankton Co. (JW). Both late
 dates.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird--Reports from Brown, Brookings, and Moody Co.

- Pileated Woodpecker**--27 and 31 November and 8 December, Deuel Co. (EL, JC). Details in future issue.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker**--Reports from Brookings, Hamlin, Hughes, and Roberts Co.
- Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker**--6 September and 22 October, Custer Co. (RH, JH).
- Eastern Kingbird**--27 August, Clay Co., 310 with 102 in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (WH). 1 September, Clay Co., 52 in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (WH).
- Least Flycatcher**--20 September, Brookings Co., banded (NJH).
- Empidonax* sp.--12 October, Brookings Co., very late date (CT).
- Rough-winged Swallow**--28 September, Brookings Co., late date (SDOU).
- Barn Swallow**--26 October, Deuel Co., 16, latest on record (BKH).
- Gray Jay**--30 November, Pennington Co. (RS).
- Pinyon Jay**--28 September, Harding Co., 50 (BR).
- Clark's Nutcracker**--11 November, Custer Co. (MP).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch**--30 August, Brown Co. (DAT). Reports from Deuel, Roberts, Grant, Day, Brookings, and Yankton Co.
- Pygmy Nuthatch**--2 at Rapid City feeder all fall (NRW).
- Long-billed Marsh Wren**--17 November, Roberts Co., very late (BKH). 25 October, Hughes Co. (RS).
- Brown Thrasher**--16 October, Brookings Co. (CT).
- Hermit Thrush**--1 October, Brown Co., early (DAT). 21 October, Brown Co. (DAT). 12 November, Brookings Co., ties for latest ever (KH).
- Swainson's Thrush**--26 August, Brown Co., early (DAT). 18 October, Brookings Co., late (NJH).
- Eastern Bluebird**--26 October, Deuel Co., 8 (BKH). Also records from Lincoln and Hutchinson Co. (RS).
- Mountain Bluebird**--21 October, Meade Co., rather late (EM).
- Water Pipit**--21 September, Harding Co., early in East River (BR). 9 October, LaCreek NWR, 65 (RCR).
- Bohemian Waxwing**--Reports from Clay, Deuel, Brown, and Day Co.
- Northern Shrike**--November, Gregory Co., 10 (GS). Also Day and Harding Co.
- Bell's Vireo**--19 August, LaCreek NWR, 2 (RCR, DJR).
- Philadelphia Vireo**--30 October, Edmunds Co., latest ever (DAT). Details in next issue.
- Orange-crowned Warbler**--25 October, Brown Co., latest ever (DAT). 17 October, Pennington Co.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler**--13 and 19 September, Brown Co., 2 (DAT). Rare in all seasons.
- Black-throated Green Warbler**--12 October, Harding Co. (BR). 30 October, Brown Co., latest ever (DAT).
- Blackburnian Warbler**--30 August, Yankton Co. (JW).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler**--1 September, Brown Co., early (DAT).
- Bay-breasted Warbler**--8 October, Brookings Co. (CT).
- Blackpoll Warbler**--20 September, Brown Co. (DAT). Seldom reported in fall.
- Ovenbird**--21 September, Brown Co. (DAT).
- Mourning Warbler**--12 October, Brookings Co., ties for latest ever (CT).
- Wilson's Warbler**--29 September, Brown Co. (DAT). 8 observations, Yankton Co. (JW).
- Eastern Meadowlark**--20 September, LaCreek NWR, singing (RCR, DJR). The status of this species in eastern South Dakota should be carefully checked!
- Western Tanager**--12 September, Meade Co., 7 (EM).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak**--20 September, Gregory Co. (GS).
- Black-headed Grosbeak**--11 October, Gregory Co., latest ever (GS).
- Blue Grosbeak**--24 September, Gregory Co., very late (GS).

Evening Grosbeak--1 October, Brown Co., **earliest East River record** (EM). Reports from Moody, Brookings, Brown, Pennington, Harding, Gregory, Day, Deuel, and Roberts Co. early in the season but the species appears on few CBC's.

Purple Finch--20 September, LaCreek NWR (RCR, DJR). Fairly common this fall in most areas.

Pine Grosbeak--31 October and 2 November, Brown Co., 6 (DAT).

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch--9 November through 15 December, Moody Co., regular at feeder but not on CBC (LEW & others). 2 November, Custer Co., 100 (JB). 27 November, Pennington Co., 80 (RS).

Common Redpoll--Reports from most areas. Some flocks up to 50 but usually 5-15 birds.

American Goldfinch--22 November, Charles Mix Co., 400 (JW).

White-winged Crossbill--24 October, Moody Co., early (LW). 28 October, Deuel Co. (BKH). 1 November, Day Co. (LW). 23 November, Roberts Co. (BKH).

Rufous-sided Towhee--11 September, Brown Co. (DAT).

Savannah Sparrow--20 September, LaCreek NWR, 150; 9 October, LaCreek NWR, 20 (RCR, DJR). 4 October, Lawrence Co. (JB, BR, ES).

Tree Sparrow--3 October, Lyman Co. (WT). 9 October, LaCreek NWR, 35 (RCR).

White-crowned Sparrow--9 October, LaCreek NWR, 50 (RCR).

White-throated Sparrow--9 September, Brookings Co. (CT). 9 September, Brown Co. (DAT). Both tie for **earliest ever**. 12 September, Brookings Co. (CO).

Fox Sparrow--Reports from Brown, Mellette, and Brookings Co.

Swamp Sparrow--20 September, LaCreek NWR, 2 (RCR, DJR).

Chestnut-collared Longspur--20 September, Meade Co., late (NRW).

Snow Bunting--31 October, Day Co. (KH).



Greater Prairie Chicken

Photo: Ron Spomer

PLAN TO ATTEND THE SDOU SPRING MEETING



Teri Meyer, Bob Rogers and Jocie Baker wondering what Ron Spomer is doing in the tree.

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