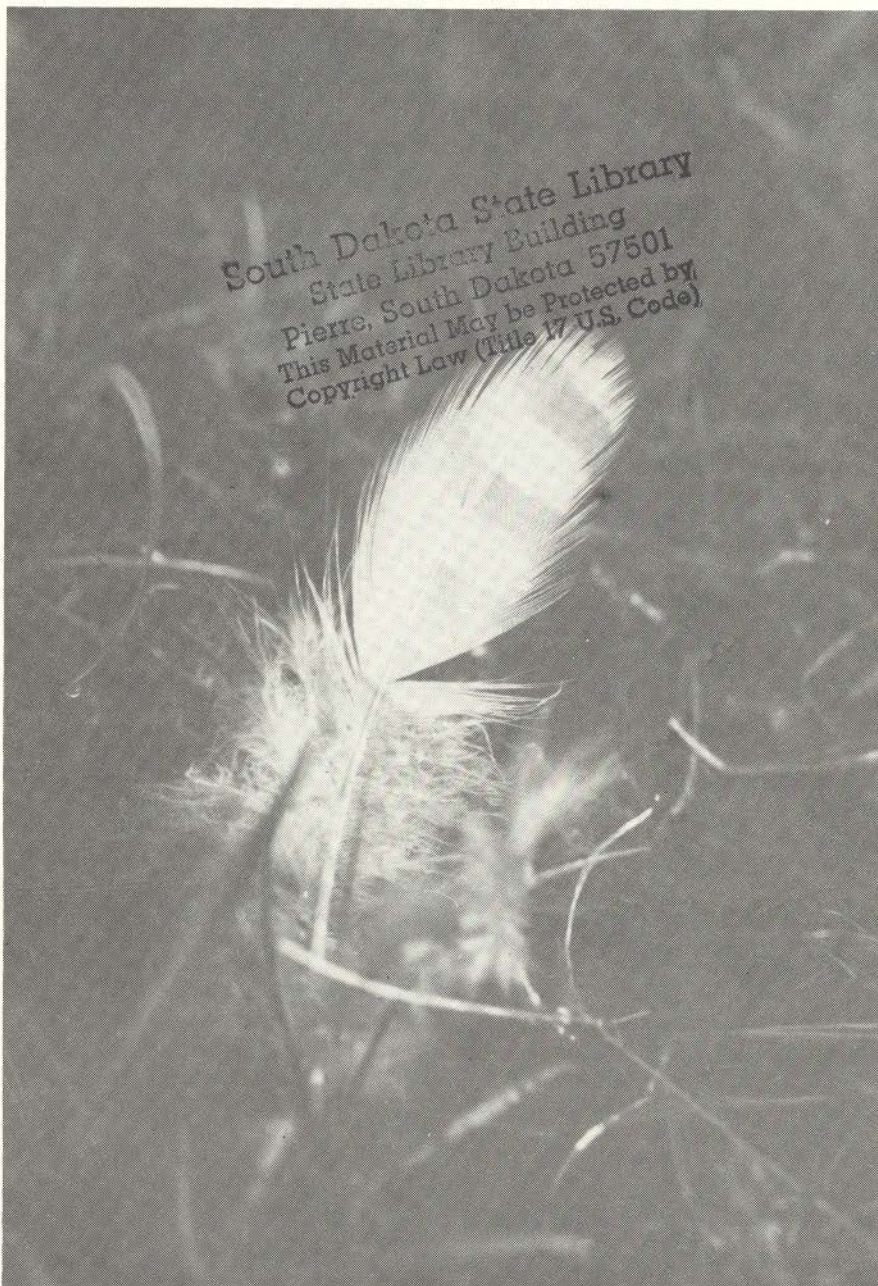


South Dakota Bird Notes

Vol. 33

December 1981

No. 4



Greater Prairie Chicken feather

Photo: Ron Spomer

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SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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ELECTED DIRECTORS

For Term Expiring 1982: Gil Blankespoor, Sioux Falls; Robert Buckman, Madison; Esther Edie, Bruce; Nelda Holden, Brookings; Galen Steffen, Burke.

For Term Expiring 1983: Gertrice Hinds, Prairie City; Everett Montgomery, Aberdeen; Carol Oleson, Volga; Ron Spomer, Pratt, KN; Dan Tallman, Aberdeen.

For Term Expiring 1984: Jocelyn Baker, Rapid City; Dan Bjerke, Spearfish; Kenneth Husmann, Brookings; Clyde Johnson, Omaha NE; Robert Rogers, Woonsocket.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

My understanding is that SDOU presidents pretty much have carte blanche so far as this page is concerned. I guess that's why subjects treated have turned out to be something of potpourri. I will continue this tradition during my tenure. This time around I want to devote most of the

page to a summary description of our recently completed fall meeting held at Aberdeen on 25-27 September 1981.

First of all, we thank the Northern State College and Aberdeen people, especially the Montgomerys and Tallmans, for acting as our hosts. The most important thing they did for us was to set the proper atmosphere. When a group of "bird people" get together, as we do each year for our spring and fall meetings, nothing should get in the way--not the cost of living, not high interest rates, not local politics, not world politics, not even the fact that I don't know my daughter's current boyfriend very well. Nothing should be important in the world except for birds. And that's the way things were at Aberdeen, especially in the Tallman home. Birds and books on birds were everywhere, and out in the backyard an active banding program was in operation. Did you know that Dan and Erika Tallman have banded over 4000 individuals of 81 species in the last 2½ years? And their backyard is nice but pretty average. Not at all like those big beautiful *National Wildlife* yards with myriads of shrubs and trees, ponds, and great foliage height diversity with impressive horizontal habitat heterogeneity. Do you every wonder how many different species and individuals pass through your backyard during a given year?

Well, who was in attendance? Present were: Richard Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Birdseye, Mrs. William Dafnis, Camilla Grace, Lenore Imberie, Cora Jane and Dick Lawton, Terry Lynn, Everett and Jeanette Montgomery, Dan and Erika Tallman, and Harvey Wittmier from Aberdeen; Diane Endres from Brainerd; Dave, Nelda, and Arthur Holden and Ken Husmann from Brookings; Bruce Harris from Clear Lake; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hahn from Doland; Robert Buckman from Madison; Gertrice and Alfred Hinds from Prairie City; Mary and Les Baylor and Mary and Nat Whitney from Rapid City; Gil Blankespoor and Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Rogge from Sioux Falls; Marie Hollen and Alvina Opitz from Sisseton; Byron and Joyce Harrell from Vermillion; Ellen Williamson from Webster; Nora Borkhius from Wessington. We were especially pleased to have Mary Borkhius from Jamestown, North Dakota, and Clyde and Emma Johnson from Omaha, Nebraska, meet with us.

What did we do? During the day on Saturday we held our paper session. This year's session was an especially good one. Papers and their authors were: "The Misunderstood Etymology of the Hummingbird Genus *Archilochus*," Richard Benson; "Wetlands," Harvey Wittmier; "Twenty-five Years of Pinyon Jay Banding," Nat Whitney; "The Harding County Breeding Bird Survey: 1967-81," Les Baylor; "Highlights of the 1981 Banding Season at Brookings: Fun with Fringillidae," Nelda Holden; "Egg Shell Porosity in Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds," Gil Blankespoor; "Nest Site Selection and Breeding Success of Prairie Falcons and Red-tailed Hawks in the North Cave Hills, South Dakota," Scott Hereford, Jeremiah Maher, Byron Harrell; "Nest Site Habitat of the Goshawk in the Black Hills National Forest," M.G. Erickson, P.K. Jungeman, Byron Harrell; and "Colonial Nesting Birds of NE South Dakota," Bruce Harris and Kenneth Husmann. On Saturday evening we enjoyed our banquet and a most interesting slide-illustrated talk entitled "South American Adventures," presented by Dan and Erika Tallman. On Sunday morning, some of us went on a field trip to Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge while others took a two-mile bird walk and watched a banding demonstration.

A couple of items came out of the annual business meeting and/or the board of directors meeting that I want to share with you: (1) we have a total of 295 members and subscriptions for 1981 (compared to 287 for 1980); (2) the following persons were elected as Directors for the term expiring 1984--Joycelyn Baker, Dan Bjerke, Kenneth Husmann, Clyde Johnson, Bob Rogers; (3) *Birds of South Dakota* is nearly out of print and we are investigating the cost of reprinting; and (4) the spring 1982 meetings will be held on 28-30 May, headquartered at Wall.

I suppose an incoming president should reflect on the health of the organization he leads. Two thoughts came to mind. One of these thoughts has penetrated our awareness again and again and has been written on this page with some regularity. The corporate body of the SDOU shows loss and graying of hair, wrinkling of skin, decreasing muscular strength and coordination, and decreasing sensory perception. Actually, things aren't that bad. We're still a fairly bright, active, perceptive group. But we do need some young members! Interacting with Terry Lynn, that bright, inquisitive, knowledgeable, 12-year-old from Aberdeen was such a joy. The second thought has to do with greater participation on the part of our membership. We have many members but only a small fraction of these people actually are involved in SDOU affairs. I invite you to join me in working out solutions to these problems (and others). Please correspond with me if you wish to call to my attention any matter relating to the SDOU.--Gil Blankespoor, Augustana College, Sioux Falls SD 57197.

Birds Observed During the 1981 Fall Meeting Aberdeen, SD 25-27 May

compiled by **Everett C. Montgomery**

All species are reported from Brown Co., most from Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron.

Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck.

Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin.

Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, American Avocet, Northern Phalarope, Herring Gull, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern.

Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch (6), Brown Creeper, House Wren, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling.

Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat.

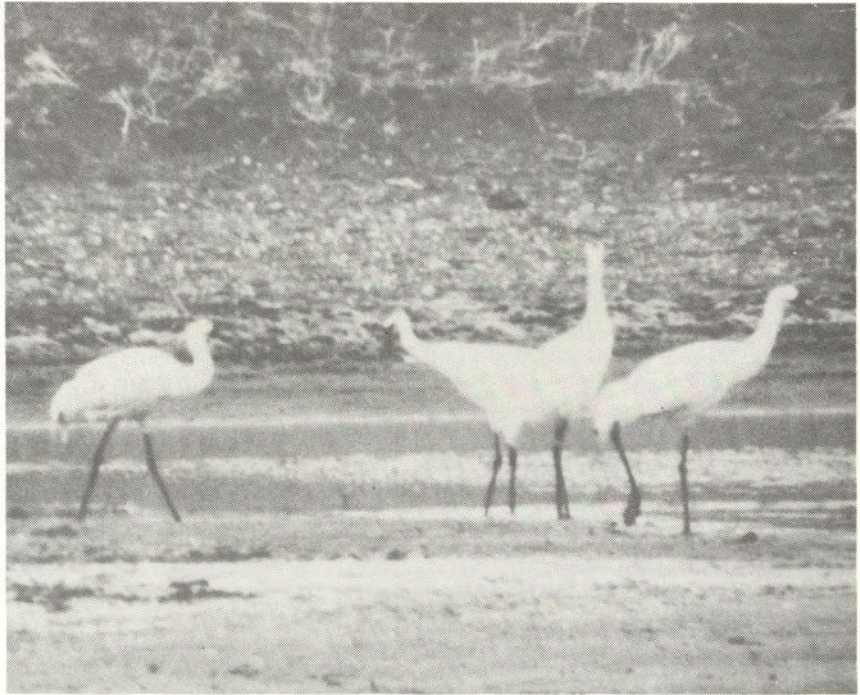
House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Whooping Cranes in Meade County

by **L.M. Baylor**, S.D. School of Mines and Technology
and **Jon Sharps**, S.D. Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks
Rapid City 57701

Four migrating Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*) stopped in southwestern Meade County on 19 April 1981, and observers studied them for nearly 5½ hours.

At approximately 08:15, Mrs. Genevieve Strong, while driving to Rapid City from her ranch on Alkali Creek, noted the cranes at a stock dam on the W. G. Vieth ranch about 18 km north of I-90, exit 61. Strong reported the observation to Miss Gertrude Bachmann, who then called L. M.



Whooping Cranes in Meade County, SD.

Photo: L. M. Baylor

Baylor. He arrived at the site at about 10:15 and found Jocelyn Baker watching the cranes, she having independently found them. The Vieth dam is a popular birding spot that Baker had visited the previous day, and the Whooping Cranes were not present then.

Prior to Baylor's arrival, Mrs. Strong, on returning to her ranch, stopped to visit with Baker, and the cranes flushed and flew out of sight. However, by 10:15 the cranes were back in the shallow water near the north edge of the impoundment, about 90 to 100 m from the country road. The birds eventually moved onto the mud flats and fed northward in the grassland. Then they began foraging southeast to a hilltop east of the dam. At about 11:20 Baker departed, and Baylor drove to the Vieth ranch to call Jon Sharps, Endangered Species Biologist for the S. D. Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks. Baylor returned to the site and found the cranes feeding westward from the hill. They slowly returned to the water, at one time coming within about 80 m of his car, from which he was photographing them.

Baylor continued his observations until 12:15, and Sharps arrived to resume the observations from 12:30 to 13:40, when the cranes flushed, circled to about 150 to 185 m, and began flying northward. Sharps spent the next few hours driving in the area to the north but was unable to locate the birds. He returned to the Vieth dam at 17:30. In the next 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours the cranes did not reappear, and they were not present the next morning when he checked the dam at 07:00.

All four cranes were white adults with no apparent traces of brown, and they appeared to be approximately the same size. One crane wore a 7 to 10 cm dull-red marker high on its left leg and a standard aluminum band on its right leg. Records of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that this whooping crane was banded as a young bird in 1977.

Some aspects of the cranes' behavior attracted our attention. We noted a few instances of the classic wing-flared jumping as two cranes faced each other, but for the most part, the cranes either loafed, preened, fed in the water, or foraged on the land. Occasionally, the cranes caught small bullheads (about 15 cm). During this fishing activity, the color-banded crane seemed dominant. Another crane would catch a fish, bring it to shore, and start pecking at it. The marked crane would run at the other one and take the fish. The banded crane would peck the fish, take it to the water, and seemingly wash the fish. Then the crane would peck the fish, remove it from the water, carry it to shore, and peck the fish into several pieces before eating it.

After feeding, the cranes walked into somewhat deeper water near the center of the pond, where they preened or loafed. They alternated by two's in this activity. The preening cranes checked their bodies, apparently for ectoparasites, and smoothed or raked their feathers. They also rubbed their heads on their rumps, much as a duck or goose would in collecting oil from the uropygial gland, and then the cranes continued to rub their heads over other parts of their bodies.

In the afternoon, Esther Serr and a few other members of the Black Hills Audubon Society shared the observations of the Whooping Cranes so that several observers, as well as Baylor's and Sharps' 35 mm slides, verify the occurrence of these cranes in southwestern Meade County. While we occasionally hear unconfirmed reports of migrating Whooping Cranes in extreme western South Dakota, this substantiated occurrence establishes a modern record somewhat farther westward than the records in western Perkins County by Alfred Hinds on 21 April 1962 (SDBN 20:53) and by Richard L. Hill on 12 October 1980 (SDBN 33:15).

The Other Side of a Duck's Life

by **Marie Hollen**

Sisseton 57262

When I gathered data for my paper on breeding Wood Ducks (SDBN 33:29-30), I often wondered what ducks do when they are away from their nests. Once in Minneapolis I saw a pair of Mallards leave a big swamp and cross a busy street to enter a neighbor's yard to eat seeds under their bird feeder. I wondered if I could get Mallards to eat in our yard at Clear Lake (Lake City, SD).

Several times I sprinkled shelled corn on the shore and up the bank and into the yard. But blackbirds came and ate the corn before the Mallards were in sight. After three years without success, I began to get up early in the morning to put out the corn, in hopes that the Mallards would get there first. This idea worked. Last May (1980) a beautiful Mallard pair made

my shoreline their playground when they were away from their nesting place. Now I was to learn the other side of a duck's life.

From 10 May to 26 June, I made notes on the behavior of the pair. They came every day and I could tell from their actions when she was laying, setting, and when the ducklings hatched. Until 16 May, both birds always came and left together, returning several times a day. During each visit, they ate very little corn. After the hen ate a few kernels, she would run to the water and drink. Then she returned and ate some more. The drake did not do the same thing; he only ate. Then both Mallards went up on a dock and sunned and slept. Often the drake played the part of her protector, looking around and searching for possible danger. The hen always seemed to be relaxed and at ease with the surroundings. This period of time was their courtship because they were always together.

The Mallards always waited until we sat close to the cabin or went inside before they came up on our shore. Often they swam close by waiting for us to depart. Fortunately, we have two big windows that give us excellent views of the shore. Sometimes Lesser Scaups, Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, and coots stopped for a few kernels of corn, but, perhaps because the other ducks never stayed very long, the Mallards did not seem to mind. The Mallard's last visit of the day was as late as 9 p.m., although usually they left earlier. When darkness fell they went across the lake to some slough for the night.

The hen's laying time must have been between 16 and 26 May because the pair began coming separately then. After she laid her egg, the drake brought her in late in the mornings. Often they walked up the bank (if they thought we were gone). Seldom did they fly from the shore. No other Mallards joined them. Sometimes another drake would approach when they were far out in the lake, but the resident drake always chased it away. When we failed to leave corn, the Mallards walked into the yard and even around the house. The only other ducks to be so adventuresome were the teal.

From 26 May until 23 June (28 days) the drake often came alone, so I knew the hen must have been incubating. She joined the drake whenever she left the nest to feed, usually twice during a day. If the weather was cold, she might only come once. Now she seldom sunned herself on the dock and to me the drake looked forlorn at the dock by himself. Nevertheless, the pair always seemed to find each other, although they seldom met at the same place.

I began wondering when the ducklings would hatch and if the hen would bring them to the shore. I read of some swans that led their cygnets to people who had been feeding the adults. When I voiced my hopes that this phenomenon would happen to us, my husband laughed and said I was dreaming.

But on 23 June I looked out of one of the windows and saw the hen with seven little ducklings on the shore. The babies were huddled together on the sand and the hen was busy eating corn. The drake was not present. Evidently she came straight from her nest after the young hatched. This time she did not run for a drink after she ate but instead stayed quite awhile, looking around a lot. I experienced a feeling of fulfillment, as I thought the hen might be repaying me for my care.

The next morning the drake, who had come alone the previous evening at 9 p.m., again came alone. The following morning, 25 June, the hen appeared alone at 6:45 a.m. She did not stay long. During a terrible wind storm the day before, I saw one Wood Duck lose her ducklings when the

wind carried them far away from her. I wondered if the wind also took my Mallard's brood or if the young were hidden somewhere. In any case, the hen ate corn and left at 7:15 a.m.

On 26 June the Mallards came together without the ducklings. I never saw them again. I assume they went to hide in the sloughs since the molting season was upon them.

GENERAL NOTES

VIRGINIA RAILS AND WOODCOCK AT LAKE ANDES.--While on the boardwalk at Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge on the morning of 22 June 1981, I was surprised to discover a pair of Virginia Rails staging a ten minute "distraction show." The rails crossed the boardwalk five times (in bright daylight), giving loud and repeated short scolding or distress notes, spreading and drooping their wings as they walked.

Cheryl Spomer and I surmised that the birds were trying to protect young. But we could not see chicks in the thick grass and cattails growing from the standing water beneath the boardwalk. In fact, we had trouble seeing the adults after they stepped into the cover. Following the pair was difficult. When we walked back to the spot where we first discovered the birds, they returned, calling louder than ever.

After taking color photographs of the rails, we continued our walk. An hour later we returned to the rail site but the birds were gone. We did, however, flush a woodcock from the wet grass. It flew over Cheryl and landed in a wet woods about 20 yd away.--Ron Spomer, Pratt, KN 67124.

PILEATED WOODPECKER IN DEUEL COUNTY.--On 27 November 1980 at about 8:30 a.m., as my wife Ruth and I watched our feeding station at Gary (Deuel Co.), a Pileated Woodpecker flew up to a large suet bag at our cottonwood tree. The woodpecker stayed only about 3-5 minutes before taking off. But we saw it well during that time and only about 30 ft from our window!

Again on 31 November the large woodpecker came to our yard. The Pileated fed on a big willow that hung over Gary Creek. I watched the bird work on the tree for about 10 min, at a distance of 60 ft, under good light conditions. The bird tore large chunks of dead wood with each blow of its bill, apparently searching for grubs. About four days later I again saw the Pileated Woodpecker across the creek from our house. The bird was in a cottonwood and I walked fairly close before the woodpecker flew further into the woods.

This record is as close to a confirmed sighting in South Dakota that we have during modern times (Bruce Harris, pers. comm.). Pileated Woodpeckers have been reported during recent years rather regularly at Lac Qui Parle State Refuge, about 30 mi E Gary and on the Minnesota side of Big Stone Lake at Ortonville. This species came to suet regularly from Thanksgiving Day 1974 until 18 April 1975 at the Don Grabow farm, about 3 mi S Gary (in Minnesota, about 0.5 mi from South Dakota) (see SDBN 29:38) --James Cole. Gary 57237.

LONG-BILLED CURLEWS AND SPRAGUE'S PIPITS NEAR PIERRE.--Sprague's Pipits are not reported in *Bird Notes* very often but I have seen them several times this summer in the Pierre area. Bruce Coonrod and I first noticed these inconspicuous grassland birds on an island in Lake Oahe. The scattered weeds did not strike me as ideal pipit habitat but the bird's thin bill, small head, streaked breast, and white outer tail feathers were unmistakable. Native shortgrass prairie lies less than ½ mi. away in Sully Co.

Coonrod and I next found Sprague's Pipits on 26 June 1981 at a ranch in SW Stanley Co. The pipits stood on a gravel driveway 15 yd from our car. We counted three pipits. Another pipit walked on a bare, disced field alongside three Long-billed Curlews. I photographed the birds.

Eight of us returned to this ranch during the SDOU summer count on 11 July 1981. We found eight pipits on a county gravel road eight miles from the ranch. We found a ninth pipit walking in six-inch grass near an adult Long-billed Curlew with three young. At our approach, two more adult curlews joined the group, all screaming, driving at us, and attempting to lead us away. My wife, Cheryl, found a Curlew chick but released it before the others could see it. After an hour, we found another chick, which was mottled black on light brown. The bill was about 1¼ inch long, but not down-curved. The chick stepped high and ran quickly through the Blue Gramma Grass. Only occasionally did the chick stumble.

On 19 July 1981, Cheryl and I saw a Sprague's Pipit in a prairie dog town in the SE corner of Stanley Co., at least 40 miles from the ranch site. I discovered no specific habitat requirements at any of these locations other than the fact that all were native midgrass prairies and two were near prairie dog towns. Anyone birding in Stanley Co. and in similar habitats should watch for Sprague's Pipits, which may be more common than we suspect.--Ron Spomer, Pratt, KN 67124.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON AT HOT SPRINGS.--On 20 April 1981, my neighbor, Mrs. J. M. Butler, called me to identify a strange bird at her feeder. Although the days were overcast, I was able to collect the following field marks before the bird disappeared five days later. The bird was a very large pigeon with a yellow, dark-tipped beak. The back of the neck had a semicircular white line and the body seemed dark bluish-gray, with some tinge of brown on the front. Mrs. Butler saw a band across the tail. From these markings and from the bird's habit of flying up into and remaining perched in a nearby tree, I assume we discovered a Band-tailed Pigeon.

The Band-tailed Pigeon is rare in South Dakota but was reported in 1981 in Pierre (Coonrod, SDBN 33:59). This species is known to move east after western droughts.--Katherine Twomey, Hot Springs 57747.

A TURKEY VULTURE NEAR WATERTOWN.--On 15 July 1981 I received a report at the Watertown Game, Fish and Parks office of a sick eagle five miles west of town on Highway 212. Stan Dockter and I went to the area and found a Turkey Vulture.

The vulture was feeding on a dead skunk along the shoulder of the highway. The bird appeared in good health and could fly easily. For about 15 minutes we observed the vulture at close range. This sighting is our first in the Watertown area. I returned later in the day but I never found it again.--Wilbert Morlock, SD Game, Fish and Parks, Watertown 57201.

The 1981 Big Day Count

compiled by **Bruce Harris**

Clear Lake 57226

Routes, Weather, and Participants

Rapid City--11 July. Clear and hot with a high of 100° F.

Leaders: Nat Whitney and Esther Serr. 54 species.

Route: Rapid City, then S on SD79 to Haas Ranch (just N Custer Co. line), then S and E to 777 Ranch and Dam in the French Creek Valley. Most of morning spent 6 mi E Fairburn. Very little high country covered.

Participants: Nat Whitney, Esther Serr, Al and Nancy Bock, Barney, Opal, Beverley, and Matt Nordstrom, Marjorie Parker, Gertrude Backmann, Norma Eckmann, Carrie Schafer, Tony Jedrykowski, Mary MacInnes, and Mike Michael.

South Central--4 July. Clear with high of 85° F. light winds.

Leader: Galen Steffen. 52 species.

Route: Gregory Co. Heavy rains on 3 July made some areas impassable. Burke Lake to 8 mi E Burke, then N to Highway 44, W to Dixon Lake, then S to Gregory and E back to Burke, ca. 60 mi total.

Participants: Galen Steffen and Richard Peterson.

Pierre--10, 11, and 12 July. Sunny and hot (100° F) to overcast and rain (82° F). Leader: Ron Spomer. 132 species.

Route: Stanley and Hughes Co.

Participants: Bruce Coonrod, Cheryl Spomer, Ron Spomer, Pat Vance, "Ecy" Ecklund, Bob Summerside, Charles and Gladyce Rogge, Howard Hahn, Mariam Hahn, and Rex Riis.

Northeast--3 July. Partly cloudy to clear. Leader: Bruce Harris. 104 species.

Participants: Robert Buckman, Jessica Giusti, Arthur, Dave, and Nelda Holden, Ken and Patsy Husmann, Florence Kurz, Richard Little, Gertie McKibbens, Lawrence Novotny, Gary Stava, Darrell and Lois Wells.

The total of 160 species for this first breeding season Big Day count was quite good. At least 20 species were missed, so we look forward to better counts in the future.

This count shows great potential for an annual field day. Better coverage and planning in all areas will give longer lists. We should consider the idea of having smaller groups take part in whatever part of the state is convenient for them. We definitely need a group working in the SE corner of the state.

All groups should keep data on breeding evidence. Spomer's party did a fine job in note-taking, while we did not do as well as we should have in the NE. We should all take advantage of this survey to work areas of South Dakota that are seldom visited during the breeding season!

Species	area				comments	
	R. City	S Cent.	Pierre	NE	B = evidence of breeding	M = migrant
Common Loon				X	M	
Red-necked Grebe				X	B	
Eared Grebe			X	X		
Western Grebe			X	X	B	
Pied-billed Grebe		X	X	X	B	
White Pelican			X	X	B	
Double-crested Cormorant			X	X	B	
Great Blue Heron	X		X	X	B	
Green Heron			X	X		
Little Blue Heron				X	immature, many observers	
Egretsp.				X		
Snowy Egret				X		
Black-crowned Night Heron			X	X		
American Bittern				X		
Canada Goose			X	X	B	
Mallard		X	X	X	B	
Gadwall			X	X	B	
Pintail			X	X	B	
Blue-winged Teal	X		X	X	B	
American Wigeon			X		B	
Shoveler			X	X	B	
Wood Duck		X	X	X	B	
Redhead			X	X		
Ring-necked Duck			X	X		
Canvasback				X		
Ruddy Duck			X	X		
Common Merganser			X		M?	
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X			
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X	plus Kriderii in NE	
Broad-winged Hawk				X	nest with young	
Swainson's Hawk			X	X		
Ferruginous Hawk			X			
Golden Eagle	X				B	
Marsh Hawk			X	X		
Kestrel	X	X	X	X		
Sharp-tailed Grouse	X		X		B	
Bobwhite		X	X			
Ring-necked Pheasant		X	X		B	
Gray Partridge			X	X	B	
Turkey			X			
Sora			X		B	
American Coot		X	X	X	B	
Piping Plover			X			
Killdeer	X	X	X	X	B	
Long-billed Curlew	X		X		B	
Upland Sandpiper	X	X	X	X	B	
Spotted Sandpiper			X	X		
Solitary Sandpiper			X		M	
Greater Yellowlegs	X		X		M	
Lesser Yellowlegs	X		X	X	M 19 Waubay	

Species	area				comments B = evidence of breeding M = migrant
	R. City	S Cent.	Pierre	NE	
Willet			X	X	
Pectoral Sandpiper			X		M
Baird's Sandpiper	X		X		M
Least Sandpiper			X		M
Semipalmated Sandpiper			X		M
Western Sandpiper			X		M
Short-billed Dowitcher			X		M details?
Long-billed Dowitcher			X		M
Stilt Sandpiper			X		M
Marbled Godwit			X	X	
Avocet	X		X	X	23 at Pierre
Wilson's Phalarope	X		X	X	
Herring Gull			X		M 10 at Pierre
Ring-billed Gull			X	X	B
California Gull			X	X	nesting Waubay
Franklin's Gull			X	X	
Forester's Tern				X	
Common Tern			X	X	
Least Tern			X		B 35 total
Black Tern			X	X	
Rock Dove		X	X	X	
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	B
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			X		
Black-billed Cuckoo		X	X	X	
Screech Owl			X		B
Great Horned Owl	X		X	X	
Burrowing Owl	X		X		B
Short-eared Owl				X	
Common Nighthawk	X	X	X	X	
Chimney Swift		X	X		
Belted Kingfisher		X	X	X	
Common Flicker	X	X	X	X	
Red-headed Woodpecker	X	X	X		
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	B
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X	B
Western Kingbird	X	X	X	X	B
Great Crested Flycatcher		X	X	X	
Eastern Phoebe		X		X	B
Say's Phoebe			X		
Willow Flycatcher				X	
Least Flycatcher			X		
Eastern Wood Pewee				X	
Western Wood Pewee	X				
Horned Lark		X	X	X	
Violet-green Swallow	X				
Tree Swallow	X		X	X	B
Bank Swallow			X	X	
Rough-winged Swallow		X	X	X	B

Species	area				comments
	R. City	S Cent.	Pierre	NE	B = evidence of breeding M = migrant
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X	B
Cliff Swallow			X	X	B
Purple Martin		X	X	X	B
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X	
Common Crow	X		X	X	
Pinyon Jay	X				
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	X	X	
White-breasted Nuthatch		X	X	X	
House Wren	X	X	X	X	B
Long-billed Marsh Wren			X	X	
Rock Wren			X		
Gray Catbird		X	X	X	
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X	
American Robin	X	X	X	X	B
Veery				X	
Eastern Bluebird		X			
Mountain Bluebird	X				
Sprague's Pipit			X		10 birds
Cedar Waxwing			X	X	
Loggerhead Shrike	X		X	X	nest in NE
Starling	X		X	X	B
Bell's Vireo			X		B
Yellow-throated Vireo				X	Waubay NWR
Red-eyed Vireo			X	X	
Warbling Vireo		X	X	X	
Yellow Warbler		X	X	X	B
Ovenbird			X		
Yellowthroat		X	X	X	B
American Redstart			X		
Yellow-breasted Chat			X		
House Sparrow	X	X	X	X	B
Bobolink			X	X	B
Western Meadowlark		X	X	X	B
Yellow-headed Blackbird	X	X	X	X	B
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X	B
Orchard Oriole		X	X	X	B
Northern Oriole	X	X	X	X	B
Brewer's Blackbird	X				
Common Grackle	X	X	X	X	B
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X	X	
Western Tanager	X				
Cardinal			X		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		X			
Black-headed Grosbeak		X	X		
Blue Grosbeak			X		
Indigo Bunting		X	X	X	
Lazuli Bunting			X		
Dickcissel		X	X	X	
American Goldfinch		X	X	X	

Species	area				comments	
	R. City	S Cent.	Pierre	NE	B = evidence of breeding	M = migrant
Red Crossbill	X		X			
Rufous-sided Towhee	X		X			
Lark Bunting	X		X		B	
Savannah Sparrow				X		
Grasshopper Sparrow			X	X	B	
Vesper Sparrow				X		
Lark Sparrow	X		X		B	
Chipping Sparrow	X		X	X	B	
Clay-colored Sparrow				X		
Field Sparrow			X		B	
Song Sparrow			X	X		
Chestnut-collared Longspur			X	X	B	

Book Review

by Erika and Dan Tallman

Northern State College
Aberdeen 57401

The Audubon Society Handbook for Birders by Stephen W. Kress. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 322 pp. \$17.95.

This book set us wondering just how one learns the sport of bird watching. We strongly suspect one acquires knowledge through field experience with fellow practitioners of the art using a trusty field guide and not from a how-to-do-it book. This guide to bird study, however, is one of the better books of its type that we have seen.

This book is an accumulation of a wide range of information of interest to both novice birders and serious hobbyists. Dr. Kress, with whom we are personally acquainted, gives advice on the selection of binoculars, scopes, and photographic equipment and how to use them. The "buddy binocular," for helping companions locate elusive birds, is a particularly clever device discussed in the text. The chapter on bird identification is good, especially since it de-emphasizes the importance of color as a key characteristic. Dr. Kress' stressing the value of observing bird behavior and not just listing species is encouraging. Instructions on taking notes and constructing ethograms are valuable parts of the book.

Of special interest to some beginners are discussions of educational programs, research opportunities for amateurs, and state and regional periodicals and organizations. Putting one's knowledge to practical use will make the hobby of bird watching even more satisfying.

The annotated bibliography will help readers to select those volumes most valuable for growth as an amateur ornithologist. We feel this compilation and the other data in this book are relatively complete. But, in a curious lapse of thoroughness, Dr. Kress cites our checklist, even giving the number of pages, but he omits any mention of the SDOU's *Birds of*

South Dakota, despite the fact that the book is advertised in both editions of the checklist! One must assume similar gaps of information may occur elsewhere in the text.

The book is profusely illustrated with photographs and line drawings. Unfortunately, some of the drawings are amateur in quality. We assume at Cornell, Dr. Kress had access to artists of higher professional quality.

In summary, this text contains much worthwhile information and will make a valuable addition to the bird hobbyist's bookshelf. We believe this book is one of the better "how-to" guides with which we are familiar.

The 1981 Breeding Season

by **Bruce Harris**

Box 605, Clear Lake 57226

Contributors

Pierre Audubon Club (PAC); Rapid City Bird Club (RCBC); Jocie L. Baker (JLB); Robert Buckman (RB); Larry Gauger (LG); Jessica Giusti (JG); John A. Hagen (JAH); Willis Hall (WH); Reda M. Hansen (RMH); Bruce K. Harris (BKH); Alfred and Gertrude Hinds (AH, GH); Kenneth Husmann (KHH); Dave Koenecke (DK); Douglas E. Kreger (DEK); W.J. Kurtenbach (WJK); Stanley Lundquist (SL); James D. McLaird (JDM); Michael M. Melius (MMM); Everett C. Montgomery (ECM); Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P); Charles and Gladyce Rogge (CHR, GR); Richard and Dorothy Rosche (RCR, DJR); Galen L. Steffen (GLS); Gary J. Stava (GJS); Harvey O. Smith (HOS); Paul Springer (PS); Ron C. Spomer (RCS); Erika and Dan Tallman (EJT, DAT); South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (SDOU); Sam J. Waldstein (SJW); Linda L. Watters (LLW); Lois I. Wells (LIW); Nat R. Whitney (NRW).

Correction Seasonal Report, SDBN 33:67: the earliest ever Scarlet Tanager sighting for Union Co. on 3 May 1981 (WH) was actually observed by Michael Melius (MMM).

Common Loon--3 July, Day Co., immature (KHH). 16 July, Pennington Co. (RCR, DJR). Neither record with breeding evidence.

Red-necked Grebe--14 May, Waubay NWR, bird on nest, EARLIEST EVER (ECM).

Eared Grebe--22 June, Kingsbury Co., 112 NESTS, at least 200 birds (BKH, KHH). 5 June, ROBERTS CO., 36 adults (BKH). 2 August, Deuel Co., 40 birds at School Lake, most ever in county during breeding season (BKH). Also counts of 70-100 adults at breeding areas in Kingsbury, Codington, and Lake Co. (BKH, KHH).

Western Grebe--19 July, Walworth Co., unverified report of 60-80 ACRES of nesting birds along the Missouri River near Akaska should be checked in 1982 (DK). Reports also from Gregory and Custer Co. 11 July, Stanley Co, 103 (PAC).

White Pelican--Marshall Co., nest count of 1050 at Piyas Lake, 540 at Drywood Lake in Roberts Co., and 714 at GRASS LAKE in Codington Co. where active colony was sighted unnoticed since 1961 (BKH, KHH). Waubay Lake, 215 nests (LLW, WJK).

Double-crested Cormorant--Hamlin Co., Lake Albert, 100 nests (SL, BKH, DEK). 707 nests at Piyas Lake, 391 at Drywood Lake, 229 at Grass Lake (BKH, KHH). 610 nests at Waubay Lake (LLW, WJK). 11 July, Custer Co., 20 nests (RCBC).

Great Blue Heron--5 July, Hamlin Co., 35 nests in mixed species colony (SL, BKH, DEK). 2 May, LAWRENCE CO., 6 nests (JLB). Davison Co., 40 nests (JDM). Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, 7 nests on "pelican island" (BKH, KHH). Custer Co., 20-30 nests at 777 Dam (RCBC). Deuel Co., Coteau Lake, active colony (BKH, GJS). 8 and 30 August, PERKINS CO. (AH, GH).

Green Heron--Reports from Day, Deuel, Kingsbury, Hamlin, and Grant Co.

- LITTLE BLUE HERON--22 June, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, 3 ADULTS in mixed egret, ibis, heron colony but no breeding evidence (BKH, KHH). 9 August, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, 1 mottled IMMATURE (GJS, BKH). 2 July, Day Co., Waubay Lake, 1 mottled IMMATURE (BKH and others).
- Cattle Egret--22 June, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, ca. 50 adults and 25 NESTS in colony, many nests with young (BKH, KHH, GJS). 29 June, Sand Lake NWR, 15 pairs on nests later destroyed by wind and hail (SJW).
- Great Egret--5 July, Hamlin Co., Lake Albert, NEST with 5 fledglings from 2 broods, 11 adults in area and ca. 5 nests in trees (SL, BKH, DEK). FIRST CONFIRMED NESTING IN SOUTH DAKOTA. 14 July, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, NEST WITH FLEDGLING, also 7 adults and possibly 4 other nests IN CATTAILS (BKH, KHH). 15 July, Sand Lake NWR, 6 (SJW).
- SNOWY EGRET--22 June, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, at least 6 ADULTS in large Cattle Egret colony in tall cattails; 14 July, same location, 15 ADULTS with 2 seen feeding fledged young (BKH, KHH). 16 June, Lake Co. (RB). 24 July, Sand Lake NWR, 2 (SJW). 11 June, McCook Co. (RCR, DJR). May nest in SD every year.
- LOUISIANA HERON--14 July, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, adult, SECOND STATE RECORD (First record, SDBN 32:81) (BKH, KHH).
- Black-crowned Night Heron--16 May, Marshall Co., Piyas Lake, NEST ON GROUND AMONG PELICAN NESTS, 2 young, 2 eggs (BKH, KHH). Large active colonies also at Lake Co., Milwaukee Slough; Deuel Co., Wigdahl Slough; Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake; and Codington Co., Goose Lake. 11 July, STANLEY CO., immature (PAC).
- LEAST BITTERN--22 June, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, NEST WITH 5 EGGS (BKH). 9 August, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, 9 in 3 or 4 areas, some newly fledged (GJS).
- WHITE-FACED IBIS--22 June, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, NEST WITH 3 YOUNG, 10 ADULTS PRESENT IN AREA; 14 July, same area 2 NESTS with 3 eggs each, 13 FLYING BIRDS, some probably immature, third nesting record for state, probably first with adequate verification data (BKH, KHH). 16 June, Lake Co., Milwaukee Slough. Also a nesting report from Sand Lake NWR but details not provided.
- BLACK DUCK--15 July, Sand Lake NWR, brood of 5 reported but without details (SJW). If accurate, this record would be the first confirmed nesting in state.
- CINNAMON TEAL--5 June, Fall River Co. (RCR, DJR).
- Wood Duck--Gregory Co., 3 BROODS (GLS). June, Brown Co., 1 brood in city of Aberdeen (DAT). Fall River Co. (RCR, DJR).
- Ring-necked Duck--11 June, McCook Co. (RCR, DJR). 12 June, Hughes Co. (RCS).
- Lesser Scaup--2 July, Codington Co., 25, (10 males) (BKH). Day Co., 13 YOUNG IN 2 BROODS (HOS, LLW).
- Ruddy Duck--7 June, PENNINGTON CO., 2 (JLB).
- COMMON MERGANSER--11 July, Missouri River (PAC). 5 June, Fall River Co. (RCR, DJR). 8 July, Douglas Co. (CHR, GR) May occasionally breed in state, especially in the Black Hills region.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK--25 June, Custer Co. (JAH, RMH). 10 May, Custer Co., 3 birds in 3 areas (RCR, DJR). 5 June, Fall River Co. (RCR, DJR). Many more than usual.
- COOPER'S HAWK--7 June, Pennington Co. (PS). 25 July, Fall River Co. (RCR, DJR).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK--3 July, Roberts Co., nest with 2 downy young (GJS, BKH, JG). See General Notes in next issue. 28 May, Waubay NWR (KHH).
- Swainson's Hawk--9 April, Potter Co. (RCS). 23 April, Brown Co., 2 building nests (RCS). Up in numbers in NE.
- Ferruginous Hawk--9 APRIL, Walworth Co., nest and 1 egg later abandoned (RCS). Also reported nesting with 1 egg and later abandoned in Potter Co. (RCS).
- Golden Eagle--28 FEBRUARY, Fall River Co., nest building (RCR, DJR).
- Marsh Hawk--2 July, Deuel Co., female carrying food (BKH). Up in numbers in NE (BKH) but GLS reported only 2 from Gregory Co.
- Osprey--3 JULY, Fall River Co. (RCR, DJR).
- Prairie Falcon--5 June, Fall River Co., nest (WH).
- Bobwhite--Gregory Co., ca. 2 males/mi on 40 mi route (GF&P, fide GLS).

- Virginia Rail--8 July, Lake Co., bird carrying food (BKH, KHH). See also General Notes this issue.
- PIPING PLOVER--22 May, FALL RIVER CO., bird defending territory (RCR, DJR). This record is significant range extension for breeding in SD if verified. 12 June, WALWORTH CO., a juvenile with 13 adults (WH). 11 July, Stanley Co. (PAC).
- Ruddy Turnstone--4 June, Day Co. (KHH).
- Common Snipe--7 June, PENNINGTON CO., winnowing male (JLB).
- Long-billed Curlew--11 July, Pierre, adult and young (PAC).
- Willet--5 and 20 June, 3 and 16 July, FALL RIVER CO., up to 9 seen at one time (RCR, DJR).
- Marbled Godwit--20 June, Falk Co., 19 (MMM). 13 June, LACREEK NWR, 6 adults and 2 young (RCR, DJR).
- Avocet--3 and 10 July, FALL RIVER CO., 4-6 adults and DOWNY YOUNG (RCR, DJR). 11 July, Stanley and Hughes Co., 23 (PAC).
- Wilson's Phalarope--20 June and 3 July, Fall River Co., 2 nests (RCR, DJR).
- Ring-billed Gull--16 May, Day Co., Waubay Lake, 1013 nests (BKH, KHH). Roberts Co., Drywood Lake, only 4 nests (BKH, KHH). Waubay colony about the same but the Drywood colony definitely down from the good-sized colony observed in 1980 (BKH). Fall River Co., observed in 3 areas, 12-170 individuals (RCR, DJR). 11 July, Hughes Co., 10 (PAC).
- Herring Gull--5 June, FALL RIVER CO. (RCR, DJR).
- CALIFORNIA GULL--3 July, Day Co., Waubay Lake, at least 2 NESTS and 10-15 ADULTS on "pelican island" (only 1 seen on "gull island" during 16 May survey); egg measurements and field comparisons made of nest and eggs (BKH, LIW). This record is the first confirmed nesting in SD, although breeding was suspected previously at Roberts Co., Drywood Lake. 20 June, FALL RIVER CO., 11 ADULTS and 3 IMMATURES (RCR, DJR). 11 July, PIERRE (PAC).
- Franklin's Gull--22 June, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, 10 nests (BKH, KHH). 8 July, Lake Co., Milwaukee Slough, 1 fledgling and many adults in area (BKH, KHH, RB). 2 July, Codington Co., Horseshoe Lake, 100 adults, possible nesting colony (PAC). 11 July, Pierre, 60 (PAC). June and July, FALL RIVER CO., 3-13 birds (RCR, DJR).
- Forster's Tern--5 June, Roberts Co., Peever Slough, 7 NESTS (BKH, KHH). 5 June, Fall River Co. (RCR, DJR). Codington Co., Goose Lake, 20 adults (BKH). 22 June, Kingsbury Co., Whitewood Lake, 4 NESTS ca. 20 adults (BKH, KHH). Active colonies in Lake Co., Milwaukee Slough, and Wigdahl Slough in Deuel Co. although neither colony actually located (BKH).
- Common Tern--NO NESTING LOCATED. Only 1 pair at Waubay and Drywood Lake areas where there has been good nesting in past years.
- Least Tern--11 July, near Pierre, 35 (PAC). 8 June, Bon Homme Co. (RCR, DJR). 12 June and 26 July, Yankton and WALWORTH CO. (WH).
- CASPIAN TERN--8 June, MEADE CO., 1 (PS). 8 June, BUTTE CO., 2 at Newell Lake (PS). These records are first in SD west of the Missouri.
- Black Tern--Gregory Co. (GLS). Fall River Co., 55 (RCR, DJR).
- Mourning Dove--2 early nesting records reported in SDBN 33:60.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo--7 June, Pennington Co. (JLB). Also reported from Pierre and Lawrence Co.
- Long-eared Owl--12 May, Gregory Co. (GLS).
- Short-eared Owl--28 June, DEUEL CO., 2 areas (BKH, DEK). 2 July, DAY CO. (BKH and others).
- Burrowing Owl--28 June, Deuel Co., ADULT WITH 3 DOWNY YOUNG; observed regularly until 16 August, these owls are the first known to have nested in Deuel Co. since 1969. 14 July, Kingsbury Co. (KHH, BKH). Very few Burrowing Owls are reported east of Aberdeen or Huron.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL--10 June, Newton Hills SP, ca. 8 calling (RCR, DJR).
- Poor-will--5 June, Fall River Co., in area where not formerly reported (RCR, DJR).
- Common Nighthawk--23 June, Day Co., nest with 2 young (KHH).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird--28 June, Roberts Co., male (BKH). 10 June, Deuel Co. (LG). We still have no confirmed nesting for this species in SD.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker--11 June, Newton Hills SP, 3 (RCR, DJR). 7 June, Big Stone Lake, 3 pairs/1 mi, including nest with young (BKH).

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker--26 May, Custer Co., pair (JAH, RMH).

Great Crested Flycatcher--Gregory Co., 3 pairs in Co.; nesting attempt by 1 pair in flicker nest box; another pair seen carrying food (GLS).

Eastern Phoebe--Day Co., nesting (KHH). 10 APRIL, Yankton Co., nesting, EARLIEST EVER (WH). Gregory Co., 3 nests (GLS).

Say's Phoebe--Perkins Co., nesting (AH, GH).

Least Flycatcher--7 June, PENNINGTON CO., but no note as to calling (JLB).

Tree Swallow--18 July, CUSTER CO., 5 at nest boxes at 6800 FT elevation. (RCR, DJR).

Purple Martin--12 June, Bennett Co., 4 pairs, species observed annually since 1968 (RCR, DJR).

PYGMY NUTHATCH--24 June, FALL RIVER CO., family group and solitary (RCR, DJR).

Dipper--23 May, Lawrence Co., 2 nests (NRW and others).

Canyon Wren--1 June, Fall River Co., adults feeding young and building new nest on 2 June (WH).

SAGE THRASHER--5 June and 10 July, Fall River Co., 1-3 (RCR, DJR).

Veery--8 June, BON HOMME CO. (RCR, DJR). 3 July, Roberts Co., Sica Hollow, at least 3 calling (many SDOU observers).

Eastern Bluebird--June and July, Yankton Co., juveniles in 3 areas (WH). 6 June, Roberts Co., adult and fledglings (BKH). 16 May, Roberts Co. (KHH, BKH). Reported also Davison and Gregory Co.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER--11 June, Lincoln Co., Newton Hills SP; bird appeared to be defending territory but no mate observed (RCR, DJR).

Sprague's Pipit--11 July, Stanley and Hughes Co., 10 (PAC).

Cedar Waxwing--FALL RIVER and SHANNON CO. (RCR, DJR).

Loggerhead Shrike--17 May, Roberts Co., adult at nest (BKH, KHH). 14 July, Kingsbury Co. (BKH, KHH).

Bell's Vireo--7 June, Pennington Co., 2 males in area where species seen in 1979 and 1980 (JLB). 11 July, Stanley and Hughes Co., 9 (PAC).

Yellow-throated Vireo--3 July, Waubay NWR, 2 (KHH). 11 June, NEWTON HILLS SP, 2 singing males (RCR, DJR).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER--5 July, Dark Canyon near Rapid City, 1 ADULT AND 2 YOUNG where adults have been seen in previous years (JLB).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK--13 June, LaCreek NWR, 2 singing males (RCR, DJR).

Yellow-headed Blackbird--GREGORY CO., 15 nesting pairs (GLS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak--14 July, Brown Co., adult male and fledgling in area not reported as breeding range (EJT, DAT).

Blue Grosbeak--Yankton Co., juveniles in 2 areas (WH). 11 July, Stanley and Hughes Co., 3 (PAC).

Indigo Bunting--3 July, Day Co. (SDOU). Not reported often during recent years.

Lazuli Bunting--11 July, near Pierre, 2 (PAC).

CASSIN'S FINCH--15 June, CUSTER CO., regular at feeder until this date; also 27 July, 2 males and 30 July, 3 females (JAH, RMH). These records are from south of the known Black Hills range.

HOUSE FINCH--10 July, Fall River Co., Edgemont, singing immature male (RCR, DJR).

Purple Finch--28 August, Brown Co., banded immature (DAT). Probably early migrant.

Pine Siskin--Reports from Brown, Hughes, Deuel, Roberts, Codington, Hamlin, Brookings, and Clay Co. May have bred.

Red Crossbill--21 June, Brookings Co. (KHH). 16 June and 2 July, Deuel Co., on June date adult and 4 immature (BKH). Black Hills nesting may have been delayed until late April (RCR).

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Lark Bunting--18 July, Pennington Co., 6100 FT (RCR, DJR).

BREWER'S SPARROW--5 June and 10 July, Fall River Co., up to 15 seen (RCR, DJR). 2 July, Butte Co., 5 singing males (JLB).

Field Sparrow--29 May, FALL RIVER CO. (RCR, DJR).

McCOWN'S LONGSPUR--10 July, FALL RIVER CO., 1 in SW part of Co., where seen in past years (RCR, DJR).

Chestnut-collared Longspur--16 June, Day Co., 2 nests (KHH).