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Pintail *Photo: Harvey Wittmier*

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Vol. 34 **June 1982** **No. 2**

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

We have in our daily newspaper a regular public service feature called *The Almanac,* which people use to advertise, without charge, events and activities they think might be of interest to others in the community. If a person so desires, he or she can "get into" local history, genealogy, dogs, rocks, Corvettes, photography, astronomy, or even birds. One of the more fascinating aspects of the human condition is that people get excited by such different things.

By what process does a person come to have a particular interest? Why do some people come to have a preoccupation with birds? I often wonder how I became interested in birds. Actually I have no idea how I came to be an ornithologist. I certainly did not grow up in an environment where there existed a special sensitivity for birds. My people are farm folk. Although they appreciate the natural world, they do so from a primarily utilitarian point of view. Chickens lay eggs and are to be eaten; pheasants are to be hunted; sea gulls sometimes follow plows; robins build nests in the oddest places; chicken hawks are undesirable; starlings and pigeons make messes in the silo or hay mow; house sparrows do the same on the car in the garage; barn swallows are nice to have in the hoghouse. I can not think of a single grandparent, uncle, aunt, or cousin with any more than just a passing interest in birds.

But I was always interested in birds. As a boy, I was particularly fascinated with pigeons. I liked them for their colors. Some were mostly dark, many were boldly black and white, a few were reddish-brown, and, once in awhile, there was a beautiful all-white individual with pink eyes. I liked them because of the effortless way they flew from the cattle feedlot to the very top of the silo. I never knew quite why all of them would suddenly take off in some direction and continue to fly until their individual forms were mere specks in the sky, but I knew they would come back. I climbed recklessly to the top of the silo, to the top of the corncrib, even to the cupola on top of the barn, all in an effort to observe their nests and what was in them.

Lots of things about birds are mysterious. I walk out of my house in mid-May and I am greeted from every direction by twittering warblers. The birds seem to have materialized out of the night. I stroll across campus during a howling January blizzard. The white world is extremely small and not another living thing seems to exist on God's earth. Then barely discernible above me I hear a different sound and, a moment later, seemingly spawned by the blizzard, three Horned Larks alight on the snow in front of me. I've been visiting a hoghouse every day with a Barn

Swallow nest in it. The five nestlings are now almost fully grown. They literally spill over the side of the nest, seeming to be straining at the leash. I've been tempted for several days to scare them out of the nest. Eventually I yield to the temptation. They explode out and are able to fly, having never flown before!

So, I really can't explain how I came to have an interest in birds. Lately the SDOU membership has been on my mind and I've been wondering how we might attract young people to our organization. Our strategy will depend, perhaps, on the way people become interested in birds. If people can be taught to have an interest in birds, we will have to somehow lead numbers of young people into ornithology. If, on the other hand, an interest in ornithology occurs accidentally, as happened with me, we will just have to direct our efforts toward identifying persons already so inclined.

As part of an effort to get a handle on this problem, I have written officers of bird organizations in a number of neighboring states. Each person to whom I wrote took the time to respond, a gesture for which I am greatly appreciative. All of the respondents indicated that their organizations have concerns similar to ours. One is of the opinion that many people have a latent interest in birding and don't actually become involved until they are older and settled in their vocations. He further suggests that most young people consider other things to be more important. Another respondent suggests that keeping new members is more difficult than attracting them. People in other state organizations have used a number of approaches. In one state a single member is responsible for membership recruitment and retention. Several state organizations channel their recruitment efforts through local Audubon and nature groups. One state is planning to ask members at the local level to conduct field trips that are specifically designed for novice birders. Another group conducts several campouts each year that are family-oriented and attractive to all ages.

I really think some good ideas are here. We need to take a careful look at some of them. An important untapped resource here in South Dakota is the high school science teacher. My guess is that some high school students are interested in birds. We need to identify these students and make ourselves attractive to them. Let me invite you to share with us any ideas you have regarding membership and recruitment and retention. This concern will always be with us.

Twenty-five Years of Pinyon Jay Studies

by **Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr.**
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Rapid City is the northern extremity of the Pinyon Jay's range. Here this jay is a regular permanent resident in open Ponderosa Pine forests, the city being north of the pinyon-juniper forests that are the bird's preferred habitat.

I caught my first Pinyon Jay in February 1956. In the ensuing 25 years, I have banded 423 Pinyon Jays and retrapped 124. In this paper I wish to report some of the life history of this species.

Annual Cycle

Although seen every month Pinyon Jays are mostly absent from our feeding stations during the winter. In late February or in early March they begin visiting the feeders regularly. By May they are very conspicuous and feed at the station daily.

In the early spring all the jays appear to be adults. In May or June young begin to accompany the adults to the feeding stations. The immatures are recognized by their grayish heads, relatively brown primaries, pink mouth-linings, and begging behavior towards the adults. This behavior is also part of the adult courtship, with the female begging from the male, an act that also occurs during incubation and brooding (Balda and Bateman 1972).

Since 1972 I have recorded the first Pinyon Jay observation of each year. In 1978 and 1979 I first recorded them in February; in other years I listed them in January, when they are definitely uncommon. In 1981, for example, the only Pinyon Jay I saw in January was with a flock of Starlings about 1 mi from my home.

The only Pinyon Jay nest I found was on 19 May 1955 in pines NW of Rapid City in the City Springs area. Bent (1964) and Balda and Bateman (1972) say Pinyon Jays are colonial but I have not been able to substantiate this fact in the Rapid City region.

The earliest date I observed an immature was 12 May 1968; the latest date was 14 July 1963. When they appear, the young are so noisy that we receive many calls from people asking what can be done to quiet these birds, protected under Federal and South Dakota law.

The incubation period for this species is 16 to 18 days (Bent 1964). Thus, when immatures appear in mid-May, they must have hatched from eggs laid in early April, which is essentially still late winter.

Longevity

I captured all my birds by trapping, usually with Potter traps. I retrapped many jays 2 to 3 years after I had originally banded them. A few have been encountered later than 3 years after banding, as seen in Table 1.

Migrations and Movements

Most of the Pinyon Jays that have been reported to me were killed or found dead within 1 or 2 mi of my home banding station. One, however, was reported from the Bear Paw Mountains of north-central Montana; so occasional individuals, and possibly entire flocks, can travel a long distance. Nevertheless, all my other data suggest that flocks stay on single ridges, not ranging more than a few square miles. In the late

Table 1. Pinyon Jays recovered after 3 years of the original banding in the Rapid City area of South Dakota.

band number	date banded	date retrapped	comments
532-04153	December 1957	June 1961	killed by cat
562-18380	January 1965	September 1969	4+ years
742-24502	November 1968	May 1972	4+ years
722-38392	December 1969	May 1972	4+ years
562-18379	January 1965	February 1969	4+ years
1083-73157	November 1968	December 1972	4+ years
1003-74917	1970	June 1974	4+ years
532-04113	March 1956	August 1961	shot in Chinook MT
532-04129	April 1956	1961	5+ years
1083-73274	July 1972	September 1977	5 years
532-04175	December 1958	March 1964	6+ years
1083-73241	September 1971	April 1978	7+ years
532-04118	March 1956	October 1966	10+ years

1950's, after I banded several birds from a flock in the foothills, I unsuccessfully searched for banded birds in a flock near Fulton Street, in the old Rapid City townsite. I should mention that once my wife and I observed a flock of 14 Pinyon Jays flying over the Forest Canyon Overlook, Rocky Mountain National Park, at an elevation of about 1200 ft and over Petran tundra, certainly not normal Pinyon Jay habitat.

Enemies and Mortality

Most of my recoveries have been birds that were shot, despite their theoretically having complete legal protection. Birds not shot included one caught by a cat and a few hit by cars. One was accidentally caught in my chimney but, after 24 hours, I reached in and freed it. A final one was found in convulsions and was sent for chemical analysis after it died.

Summary

I have studied Pinyon Jays in the Rapid City area by field observations since 1953 and by banding since 1956. In 25 years, I banded 423 Pinyon Jays and I have had returns of 13 that attained 4 or more years of age. The oldest was at least 11 years old. Nesting appearently begins in early April but I have been unable to locate any nests to study. Thus nesting remains a major question for future investigations.

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A Comparison of Bird Identification Ability Between Male and Female Northern State College Students

by **Elizabeth Svensen**
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Introduction

One might reasonably assume that men in this primarily rural state spend more time out-of-doors than do women and thus might be more familiar with native wildlife. The purpose of this study was to learn if male/female differences exist in the ability of Northern State College students to identify birds native to their state.

Materials and Methods

During September 1981, I asked 50 male and 50 female Northern State College students to identify five birds native to South Dakota. The birds, selected from the college's ornithology collection, were: Screech Owl, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Lark Bunting, and Common Yellowthroat.

I allowed the students to handle the specimens. I then asked them to write on a card the name of each bird. The students also indicated whether they hunted and/or fished.

I made no effort to achieve a random statistical sample but, rather, I approached the students randomly, in the nonscientific sense of the word, as I encountered them on the campus. Hearsay from other students could have introduced some bias in the results but I detected no discernible increase in the number of correct responses as the study progressed.

To keep the study process simple and to allow for differences in the local common names, I decided arbitrarily to accept Owl, Hawk (or Falcon), Dove (or Pigeon), Bunting, and Warbler as correct responses, in addition to the five names listed previously.

Results and Discussion

The results of the survey are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

The male students made 11 percent more correct identifications than the female students. Students who hunted and/or fished, regardless of sex, also made 11 percent more correct identifications than did the students who did not. The male students who hunted and/or fished made the greatest percentage of correct responses (54%) while the females who did not hunt and/or fish made the fewest correct identifications (37%).

Table 1. Number of correct identifications made of five birds by 50 male and 50 female Northern State College Students.

Bird	Male students	Female Students
Screech Owl	48	48
Sparrow Hawk	33	19
Mourning Dove	43	33
Lark Bunting	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	4	1

Table 2. A Comparison between male and female hunters and/or fishers and male and female non-hunters and/or fishers in their ability to correctly identify five common bird species. Data marked with an asterisk are statistically significant at the 0.05 level as determined by the chi-square test.

Group	Number in group	Possible number of correct identifications	Number of correct identifications	Percentage correct
male students	50	250	129	52%*
female students	50	250	102	41%*
male hunters/ fishers	40	200	107	54%
male non-hunters/ fishers	10	50	22	44%
female hunters/ fishers	20	100	46	46%
female non-hunters/ fishers	30	150	56	37%
male and female hunters/fishers	60	300	149	50%*
male and female non-hunters/fishers	40	200	78	39%*

Discussion and Conclusion

While the study indicates that the male students have a greater familiarity with birds, many of the female students remarked that they believed they would have performed better had they been asked to identify flowering plants rather than birds. Male students, when asked their opinion of their ability to identify plants, nearly always expressed a lack of knowledge of flower names.

Because familiarity with wildlife and the enjoyment of nature enhances and enriches the life of the individual, and for reasons of practical importance to us all, environmental education is assumed to have a secure place in the elementary and secondary schools. Bird recognition might well reflect one's environmental education, as well as the amount of time one spends out-of-doors.

During this study, four of the female students held the Sparrow Hawk in their hands and mistook it for a robin, two others thought it was a Blue Jay, and three of these South Dakotans identified it as a pheasant. The nature of the females' incorrect identifications and the males' evaluations of their own knowledge of flowers may indicate that the schools are erring in assuming a common knowledge by men and women of the natural world.

Wetlands: Their Status and Acquisition in South Dakota

by **Harvey Wittmier, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
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Historical Perspective

The need for wetland preservation and acquisition did not arise spontaneously, but rather developed or was reinforced as the United States entered into international agreements for protection and management of migratory birds, many of which depend upon wetlands for survival. Although the United States established its first wildlife refuge in 1903, not until 1916 did events begin to provide legal direction for nationwide protection of migratory birds. In that year the U.S. took part with Great Britain in the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds. This convention led directly to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which implemented the protective provisions of the convention held earlier. However, the act contained no provision for acquisition or establishment of a land base for migratory birds.

In 1929, Congress established a systematic acquisition program for refuges by passing the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. This act authorized funding for refuge acquisition and created the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission but did not assure a continual source of funding. Enactment of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act in 1934 established a steady source of monies for acquisition by the selling of duck stamps, now called "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps." Then, in 1936, the U.S. took part in the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Mammals, U.S. and Mexico. Additional agreements were signed between the U.S. and Japan in 1972 and with Russia in 1978 at the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction, and their Environment. Thus, for seventy-five years major international agreements and national legislation have mandated legal protection for migratory birds and their habitat.

From the passage of the Duck Stamp Act to the 1950's, much of the duck stamp money went to operational and administrative costs on refuges (Bean 1977). Not until 1958 was the act amended to provide revenue specifically and only for acquisition of refuges and "waterfowl production areas."

In 1961 the single most important piece of Federal legislation affecting wetlands in South Dakota was passed--the Wetlands Loan Act. This act was passed in response to rising land prices and an urgent need to offset wetland losses. The act authorized $105 million for 7 years without interest as an advance appropriation of duck stamp revenue. At the end of 7 years, the advance money was to be paid back to the Treasury by using 75% of the annual duck stamp receipts. However, in 1967 Congress elected to postpone the repayment period until 1976. Congress voted in 1976 to allow continued acquisition of wetlands through 1 October 1983 and to increase the loan authorization to $200 million. The Wetlands Loan Act and subsequent amendments have allowed the Fish and Wildlife Service to spend $142.4 million in loan money on wetland preservation to date. This money was supplemental to duck stamp receipts.

Status of Wetlands in South Dakota

The term "wetland" has been discussed, defined, and redefined in an ef-

fort to arrive at a universal and simplistic understanding of the word. However, experts finally recognized that a simple definition is inadequate and a universal definition would be so lengthy and confusing as to baffle all except the most knowledgeable scientists. The Fish and Wildlife Service defines "wetland" in its new wetland classification manual (Cowardin et al. 1979):

> WETLANDS are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this classification wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.

In 1954, the Fish and Wildlife Service accomplished its first wetland inventory for the United States. That inventory documented the existence of 74.4 million acres as compared to estimates by the Department of Agriculture of 127 million acres of wetlands originally existing in this country (Shaw and Fredine 1971).

South Dakota lies within an area of 154 million acres known as the prairie pothole region. Within the U.S. portion of this region, over a million acres of wetlands were drained between 1943 and 1961 (Briggs 1964) and by 1950 only about one-half of the original prairie wetlands remained (Harmon 1970). Burwell and Sugden (1964) reported severe drainage of wetlands in parts of South Dakota. By 1949, some 1400 wetlands totalling 6285 acres had been drained in Day Co. In Farmington Township in Lake Co., 385 wetlands originally existed but by 1961 drainage reduced that number to 147. Sanderson (1976) stated that the prairie pothole region may only produce about one-third of the ducks produced under pristine conditions.

Beginning in the 1950's, several inventories and studies have sought to ascertain the numbers and acres of wetlands and their rate of disappearance. The 1954 wetland inventory estimated that 752,000 acres of wetlands (excluding man-made impoundments and streams) occurred in South Dakota, of which 90% were east of the Missouri River (Department of Interior 1954). The Fish and Wildlife Service (1964) completed a more comprehensive inventory finding 1,381,475 acres (including a correction factor for temporary wetlands). In 1966 the Fish and Wildlife Service began monitoring the rate of wetland drainage on private lands. From 1966 through 1968, the annual rate of drainage in South Dakota varied from 0.05% to 1.13% of unprotected seasonal and semipermanent wetlands (Haddock and DeBates 1969). When the wetland inventory was revised in 1974 to account for drainage losses, only 1,332,562 acres were tallied (Fish and Wildlife Service 1975). A loss of 48,913 acres occurred during the 10-year period. Ruwaldt et al. (1979) estimated 1,089,955 acres of natural prairie wetlands and 1,444,793 acres of all wetlands (including streams, man-made dugouts, and stockponds) in South Dakota in 1973 and 1974.

Between 1975 and 1980, the Fish and Wildlife Service did not conduct any aerial surveys of wetland drainage. In the fall of 1980 the Service again flew the survey and found that about 4.4% of seasonal and semipermanent wetland acreage that was unprotected at the end of 1974 was destroyed between 1974 and 1980 (Memorandum to the Area Manager, Fish and

Wildlife Service, Pierre SD, 17 December 1980). Northeastern portions of the state had low drainage rates (1.5% acres destroyed) while the southeastern portion sustained a loss of 7.6% over the period.

Assuming an average drainage rate of 4.4% for all unprotected wetlands (including temporary wetlands) for the 1975-1980 period, approximately 36,355 acres were drained. Therefore, since the last actual inventory of wetlands in 1964, 85,268 acres of wetlands have been lost, leaving 1,296,207 acres in South Dakota today.

Status of Acquisition

Using duck stamp receipts and advance loans, the Fish and Wildlife Service initiated the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program (SWAP) in 1961. SWAP preserves wetlands in two ways: (1) by easement, and (2) by fee purchase. An easement is a perpetual agreement that protects the wetland from draining, burning, filling, or leveling while the wetland remains in private ownership to be used as the owner chooses when the wetland is dry. A fee purchase includes title to the land, the Fish and Wildlife Service owning all the normal surface and, occasionally, the mineral rights to the land. The latter areas are managed to maximize waterfowl production and are open to public use. Participation by landowners in either aspect of the program is voluntary.

Wetland acquisition has been very successful throughout the 20-year history of SWAP in South Dakota. As of 30 June 1981, the Fish and Wildlife Service had 334,396 acres under easement and 89,166 in fee (Fish and Wildlife Service 1981). Including meandered lakes and SD Game Fish and Parks lands, a total of 590,485 acres or about 45% of South Dakota wetlands are protected (see Table 1).

Since 1961 the Fish and Wildlife Service has averaged 17,148 wetland acres protected by easement and 1,866 wetland acres protected by fee for a total of 19,014 acres preserved each year (Fish and Wildlife Service 1981). However, the acreage protected in any one year has been variable. For example, the Aberdeen Wetland Acquisition Office, which acquires land in 17 northeastern counties, varied from a low of 1,404 acres taken under easement in 1962 to a high of 33,144 acres taken under easement in 1964 (see Figure 1). Those fluctuations result from staffing changes, annual precipitation, distribution of staff (e.g., some counties are more receptive to the program than are others), availability of funds, and activities of other Federal programs such as the Soil and Water Banks.

Since the passage of the Wetlands Loan Act in 1961 and the initiation of SWAP, the Fish and Wildlife Service has spent over $71 million on wetland acquisition in four prairie pothole states (Fish and Wildlife Service 1981). About $23.4 million of that total (one-third of the total) has been spent in South Dakota. The Wetlands Loan Act is the major reason for the Fish and Wildlife Service's success in preserving wetlands. Only during 1962 and 1981 was loan money not appropriated. From 1962 to 1980 approximately 48% of the money available nationwide for migratory bird conservation came from advance loans against future duck stamp sales.

Problems and the Future of Wetland Acquisition

In recent years considerable controversy has surrounded SWAP. In 1977 North Dakota passed a law that required negotiation of the term of easement contracts and prohibited perpetual easements. Litigation between North Dakota and the United States was favorable to the Fish and Wildlife Service in the District Court in Bismarck and the subsequent ap-

TABLE 1
STATUS OF WETLANDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Protective Status	Acres of Wetlands
FWS Easement	334,396(1)
FWS Fee Title	36,391(2)
Meandered Lakes	159,698(3)
Game, Fish and Parks Fee	60,000(4)
Total Protected Wetlands	590,485
Unprotected Wetlands	705,722(5)
Total Wetlands	1,296,207

1. From FWS (1981)
2. From FWS (1981) - Does not include refuge wetlands that are either meandered or impoundments.
3. From Dvorak (n.d.)
4. From personal communication with Dave McGuigan, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, SD, September 25, 1981.
5. From Fish and Wildlife Service (1975 Unpubl.) and Memorandum to the Area Manager, FWS, Pierre, SD, December 17, 1980

peal by North Dakota to the Circuit Court in St. Louis upheld the lower court's decision (U.S. vs. North Dakota, 8th Circuit Appellate Court Decision, 3 June 1981). According to the court, gubernatorial consent is not required for Fish and Wildlife Service acquisition of waterfowl production areas.

> The United States, through its treaty obligations with other nations, is committed to a policy of protecting migratory birds. That policy is implemented in part by federal statutes which preserve natural waterfowl habitat. State legislation that hinders or frustrates those statutes violates the Supremacy Clause Article VI cl. 2 and cannot stand.

In a subsequent section of the decision, the court stated:

> To the extent they encumber the federal statutes which provide for the acquisition of waterfowl habitat, the challenged North Dakota statutes are impermissible and must yield to overriding national interest in protecting migratory birds.

As a result of this decision, the legal door to continued wetland acquisition in North Dakota and elsewhere is wide open.

For three successive years opponents of SWAP in South Dakota introduced legislation to limit the easement portion of the program. In 1979, the first attempt (HB 1124) was passed by the legislature but vetoed by the Governor. In 1980 (HB 1012) and 1981 (HB 1141), bills were defeated on the Senate floor. A bill (HB 1236) was also introduced in 1981 to give veto power over fee purchases to each county commission. That bill died in committee. Defeat of this legislation was facilitated by an extremely strong conservation lobby. Noteworthy in Figure 1 is the upward trend in wetland easements in 1980 and 1981, despite three consecutive legislative attempts to limit the easement program.

Although legislative attempts to limit wetland acquisition were unsuccessful, some controversy will no doubt continue to follow SWAP. Major issues can be summarized as follows:

(1) A perpetual easement commits subsequent landowners to the easement agreement for an indefinite time period.

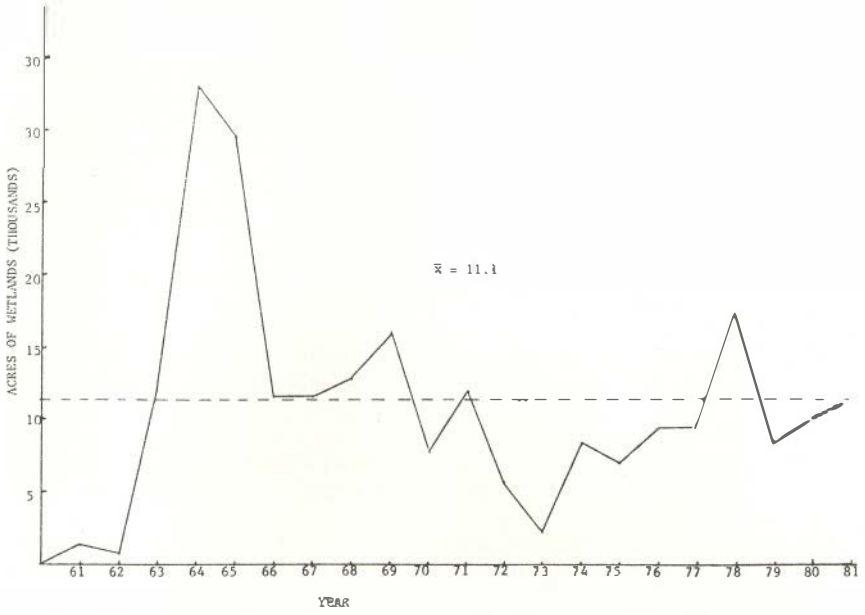

FIGURE 1 - Wetlands Protected By Easement. Aberdeen Wetland Acquisition Office 1961-1981.

(2) There is no financial reimbursement to subsequent landowners on tracts subject to an easement.
(3) Inadequate in-lieu-of-tax payments on fee title lands concern county governments.
(4) A negative attitude toward government ownership of land and land rights pervades rural South Dakota.
(5) Wetlands are considered worthless by some people.

The above issues are not easily resolved and are mentioned here only to illuminate the present and future problems faced by SWAP. Those issues will be closely scrutinized when the Fish and Wildlife Service studies SWAP for extension or termination.

A critical time for SWAP will occur between now and 1983 as Congress determines the future of the program. As previously stated, only $142.4 million of the congressionally authorized $200 million has been appropriated. Authorization exists for an additional $57.3 million in loan money to be appropriated prior to 1 October 1983. But whether such appropriations will be approved in this time is unknown, although present fiscal constraints suggest they will not. Furthermore, if the program is not renewed in 1983, 75% of future duck stamp receipts must be used to repay the advance loans, meaning that, of $16 million in annual stamp receipts, only $4 million will be available for the Migratory Bird Conservation Funds. In comparison, $30 million was available in the fund in 1980.

Major personnel cuts occurred in 1981 in wetland acquisition offices throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Minnesota. No wetlands loan money was appropriated in 1981, and the prairie potholes were relegated to sixth place on the Fish and Wildlife Service's nation-

wide list of Important Resource Problems (Fish and Wildlife Service 1980). Whether wetland preservation in South Dakota will continue beyond 1983 (and in what form) is a major question facing conservationists in South Dakota and everywhere in the prairie pothole region. Of even greater importance is the unknown fate of over 700,000 acres of South Dakota's unprotected wetlands.

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GENERAL NOTES

FIRST CONFIRMED NESTING OF THE GREAT EGRET IN SOUTH DAKOTA.--I received a call from Conservation Officer Stanley Lundquist on 4 July 1981, saying that he had located a Great Egret nest at Lake Albert. Knowing the species had never been found nesting in the state, Doug Kreger, Lundquist, and I went to the breeding colony, located in trees along the northwest shore of the lake. This location is in Hamlin Co., although most of Lake Albert is in Kingsbury Co.

We found a colony of about 35 Great Blue Heron and more than 100 cormorant nests, all in large cottonwoods and American Elms by the lake shore. The young herons were about 50 to 75% grown and the cormorants were possibly 30 to 75% grown. Below the nests of these two species and in small Box Elder trees, we found at least 5 Great Egret nests, about 18 to 25 ft from the ground. Only one of these nests was occupied. It contained 4 very wary, 25% grown young. Our attention prior to finding the occupied nest was focused on a single juvenile egret, about 75% grown, standing on a Box Elder limb about 20 yd from the active nest. Below this juvenile was a dead young egret, of about the same age (and probably the same brood), hanging by its neck from a crotch in the tree. The dead egret was partially eaten. We thought the egret had died the previous night or early that morning. We could not decide on the cause of death. The Great Horned Owl was ruled out, since the head was intact, and we thought that an owl would have taken the entire carcass to another location to feed upon it. Possibly a Screech Owl or raccoons killed the egret but, just as likely, the bird hung itself while scrambling about on the branches, a common fate of large wading birds that nest in trees. However, the fact that the dead egret's nest mates were not in the area and a number of egg shells were on the ground below the nests suggests that this small colony of Great Egrets may have been heavily preyed upon by some predator.

The Great Egret nests were quite easily identified because they are much smaller and flimsier than cormorant or heron nests. Other nests in the colony may have belonged to egrets but we could not verify their identity. We saw at least 11 and possibly 12 adult Great Egrets flying in the vicinity of the colony. Several of the adults were quite agitated by our presence. They flew over the nests repeatedly and sometimes landed close to the occupied nest, although they did not alight on the tree holding the nest or near the lone juvenile bird.

We delivered the dead egret to the Wildlife Department, SDSU, as proof of nesting for this species in South Dakota. Also, Rick Hauffe, Outdoor Editor for the *Watertown Public Opinion*, visited the area a few days later and took pictures of the young birds (see *Watertown Public Opinion* of 10 July 1981).

Stanley Lundquist believes the egrets may have nested in the colony in 1980 because he saw adults in the area during that breeding season. I have anticipated nesting of Great Egrets in South Dakota for several years. Colonies have existed near Ortonville, Minnesota, for five or six years. During June 1978, Kenneth Husmann and I found a small group of Great Egrets building nests in willows on the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown Co. but we never returned to find if the breeding was successful. On 13 July 1978, I observed a pair of these egrets, one in full court-

ship display, on an island in Bullhead Lake, Roberts Co. Later visits to this area did not produce evidence of nesting. Finally, on 7 July 1981, Husmann and I located Great Egrets nesting in cattails at Whitewood Lake in Kingsbury Co. This second confirmed nesting record will be reported in the next issue of *Bird Notes*.--**Bruce Harris, Clear Lake 57226.**

BANDING IN 1981.--This year we banded 281 individual birds of 51 species in South Dakota. Since 1964, we've banded 12,050 individuals of 154 species. This year we caught one Ruby-throated Hummingbird but we released it unhanded. In 1981, we banded the following species:

Mourning dove	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	3
Yellow-shafted flicker	3	Nashville Warbler	1
Downy Woodpecker	5	Yellow Warbler	7
Eastern Kingbird	3	Magnolia Warbler	1
Western Kingbird	1	Myrtle Warbler	2
Traill's Flycatcher	9	Ovenbird	3
Least Flycatcher	2	Northern Waterthrush	1
Barn Swallow	3	Common Yellowthroat	9
Blue Jay	1	Wilson's Warbler	4
Black-capped Chickadee	33	American Redstart	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	House Sparrow	2
Brown Creeper	1	Red-winged Blackbird	1
House Wren	9	Orchard Oriole	6
Gray Catbird	7	Baltimore Oriole	4
Brown Thrasher	1	Common Grackle	15
American Robin	64	Brown-headed Cowbird	3
Swainson's Thrush	3	Cardinal	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Pine Siskin	1
Cedar Waxwing	3	American Goldfinch	6
Starling	5	Slate-colored Junco	1
Bell's Vireo	4	Chipping Sparrow	4
Solitary Vireo	1	Clay-colored Sparrow	2
Red-eyed Vireo	3	White-crowned Sparrow	5
Warbling Vireo	9	White-throated Sparrow	1
Tennessee Warbler	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	6

--Charles and Gladyce Rogge, Sioux Falls 57101.

BANDED CATBIRD RECOVERED IN NORTH DAKOTA.--One of the exciting aspects of bird banding is the rare event of one of your banded birds being recovered away from the immediate vicinity of the banding station. Recently I was informed that a Gray Catbird I banded in Aberdeen on 3 September 1979 on its southward migration was found dead 9 mi N Windsor ND (about 10 mi W Jamestown and about 100 mi NNE Aberdeen). The bird was recovered on 17 May 1981; therefore this individual survived a second complete migration and one full breeding season after its being banded.--**Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.**

MULTIPLE BANDING RECOVERIES OF A TREE SPARROW.--On 23 October 1980, when I retrapped a Tree Sparrow that I originally banded on 5 March 1980, I assumed that the bird showed a remarkable fidelity to its migration route. Although Tree Sparrows do winter in Aberdeen, South Dakota, they are uncommon, especially in my backyard. I had not trapped one in midwinter, in fact, until 1 January 1982, when I once again retrapped and released this persistent individual, which most likely spent both winters in my neighborhood.--**Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.**

ALBINO COMMON FLICKER.--The sighting of an albino bird, although probably not of great ornithological importance, is one of those unexpected happenings that keep birdwatchers in a constant state of anticipation. In July 1980 a recently fledged albino Yellow-shafted Flicker, hit by a car and unable to fly, came into my possession.

The bird was pink-eyed and all white, except for a red nape and yellow flight feathers and tail underlinings. Evidently this flicker could process carotenoids but could not synthesize melanin. Gross (Bird-banding 36:67-71, 1965) reported albinism in each of the 20 orders and 54 of the 75 families of North American birds. Out of a total of 1847 albino birds, 48 were woodpeckers (10 species). The following South Dakota sightings of albinos are reported in *Bird Notes*: Canada Goose (2), Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Robin (5), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, House Sparrow (2), Brewer's Blackbird (2), Common Grackle.--**Gilbert W. Blankespoor, Augustana College, Sioux Falls 57197.**

LATE WARBLER MIGRATION.--During early November 1981, Dave Hamm and I saw two late-migrating warblers in a mulberry tree outside my office window at the Anderson Building on the capitol grounds in Pierre.

On 6 November I noticed a drab bird that acted like a Yellow Warbler in the leafless branches of the tree. I summoned Dave and we borrowed binoculars. Because so many fall warblers are confusing, we took turns peering through the binoculars, noting the bird's field marks to each other (two creamy bars on each wing, yellowish-olive green head and back, yellowish rump, pale yellow underparts from chin to undertail feathers, and pale yellow tail spots). We concluded our warbler was a fall-plumaged Yellow Warbler.

Just three days later on 9 November, I summoned Dave again. Although I had my binoculars, a Magnolia Warbler could easily be identified with the naked eye from within the office. Even the office secretary admired this bright yellow-breasted bird, sporting a broken black streak on each side of its breast and short, faint black streaks beneath its white throat. Dave and I noted its white eye-ring, yellow rump, white wingbars and white undertail coverts, and white tail spots.

These dates are the latest on record in South Dakota for Yellow and Magnolia Warblers, both being species that normally leave the state by early October (Harris, pers. comm.). But November 1981 was very mild. I am not sure why the warblers were attracted to the mulberry since the tree usually had little bird activity when it is not fruiting.--**Bruce Coonrod, SD Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre 57501.**

NORTHERN SHRIKE STRIKES WAXWING.--On 23 December 1981, 10 Cedar Waxwings flew into our backyard in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Suddenly two birds fluttered to the ground and, minutes later, a Northern Shrike, carrying a dead waxwing in its beak, flew into a nearby spruce tree. This sight was not pretty but we knew that the shrike was only doing what it had to for survival on a cold and snowy day. We saw the shrike twice more that day and occasionally for the next two weeks.--**Everett Montgomery, Aberdeen 57401.**

FIRST NEST RECORD FOR CALIFORNIA GULLS IN SOUTH DAKOTA.--On 3 July 1981, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Wells, Richard Little, and I found 3 California Gull nests in the Pelican Island nesting colony at Waubay Lake in Day County. Also on this island were about 12 Ring-billed Gull nests and 215 White Pelican nests.

About 15 adult California Gulls circled the island, milling with an equal number of Ring-billed Gulls, making it difficult to get exact counts. I pointed out various distinguishing marks of California Gulls. We found one California Gull nest with 2 eggs and 1 young, a second with 3 eggs, and a third with 2 eggs, one of which was cracked and the other of which contained a dead, withered embryo.

When the nests were located, Mrs. Wells assisted me in taking egg measurements, comparing them in the field with Ring-billed Gull eggs. We had Reed's *North American Bird Eggs* to aid us in these comparisons. The California Gull eggs were obviously larger and generally more boldly marked with larger blotches of color than were the Ring-billed Gull eggs. One California Gull egg measured 67 x 47 mm (the average size of Ring-billed Gull eggs is 59 x 42 mm according to Bent in his *Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns*). California Gull nests were larger and more deeply cupped than those of Ring-billed Gulls. The former measured 6-8 inches high and 12-14 inches wide. We did not want to disturb the birds by searching for more California Gull nests in this colony but more than the 3 nests we located probably existed.

Finding this species nesting in South Dakota is not surprising. I found this species during the breeding season in northeastern South Dakota in 1975 (Drywood Lake, Roberts Co.), 1977 (Drywood Lake, north colony), and 1979 (4 mi E Roslyn, Day Co.). California Gulls may have been nesting in the state for several years prior to 1981 but were simply overlooked in the Ring-billed Gull colonies. A large colony of California Gulls has nested in Chase Lake, North Dakota, for many years where the 2 species usually occupy separate niches when sharing the same rookery (Stewart, *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*). Chase Lake is approximately 110 mi N and 60 mi W of Waubay. Aside from my records cited above, over 12 migration records for California Gulls have been made in South Dakota from 1966 through 1981.--**Bruce Harris, Clear Lake 57226.**

BURROWING OWL NESTING IN DEUEL COUNTY.--Once a regular breeding bird throughout the area, common to uncommon during the nesting season, the Burrowing Owl is now seldom reported anywhere east of the Missouri River. East of Brown, Spink, Sanborn, and Bon Homme County, apparently only 10 breeding records exist from 1960 through 1981 (two of these records are from just across the Minnesota line). Only 3 of these 10 reports are of confirmed breeding birds, although more probably were breeding.

Searching for this species since my return to the area in 1966, I had given up hope when, returning to Clear Lake on 28 June 1981, I caught sight of a bird that appeared to be a Burrowing Owl. Investigating, I found an adult Burrowing Owl with 2 downy young sitting near the nest hole. The site was an overgrazed pasture, not over 20 acres in size, occupied by about 10 horses and some ground squirrels. This location is 1 mi N and 1.5 mi E Clear Lake. I had often passed by this field in the previous 2 months without seeing the birds, though undoubtedly they were there.

During the next month Doug Kreger, Gary Stava, and I decided that only one adult with 3 young inhabited the field. My last sighting was on 22 July, when all 4 birds were observed; 2 of the young were flying.

Apparently Burrowing Owls are still holding on in eastern South Dakota. They are easily overlooked so probably more exist than we realize. I always thought the decline of this owl was due to the control of ground squirrels by poison and indiscriminate shooting by hunters. Clearly, causes for the suspected decrease in breeding of this species deserves further study.--**Bruce Harris, Clear Lake 57226.**

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS IN LAWRENCE COUNTY.--From 9 January 1982 until 7 February 1982, a flock of 12 to 20 White-winged Crossbills were seen along the Loop #1 of the cross-country ski trails near Deer Mountain Ski Area. While Skiing on 9 January 1982, Bill Keener, attorney for Homestake Mining Co., first saw them. Bill, being from California, assumed this species was common to the area. After a telephone conversation with Dr. N. R. Whitney, however, Bill discovered their rarity and called me to verify his sighting on 7 February. On skis, we explored the Loop #1 area until we entered a fairly dense stand of spruce trees. Here about 12 White-winged Crossbills fed on spruce seeds. Constant movement by the birds made photography difficult but the bird's conspicuous white wing bars made identification easy. After about 15 minutes, the flock, consisting of about 4 red-plumaged crossbills and 8 female-appearing ones, flew across a valley to another spruce stand.--**Dan Bjerke, Spearfish 57783.**

The 1981 Christmas Bird Counts

Compiled by **Dan Tallman**

Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401

location	date	weather	observers	compiler
ABERDEEN	19 December 1981		13	Everett Montgomery
BROOKINGS	19 December 1981	-22°F	20	Nelda Holden
DEUEL CO	4 January 1982	-10 to +15°F; 12 in snow	6	Bruce Harris
PIERRE	20 December 1981		30	R. V. Sommerside
RAPID CITY	20 December 1981		24	Esther Serr
SAND LAKE	26 December 1981	15-20°F	5	Robert Edens
SIOUX FALLS	26 December 1981	+20's F	20	Gil Blankespoor
SPEARFISH	3 January 1982		11	Dan Bjerke
WAUBAY	21 December 1981	21-35°F	6	Linda Watters
WILMOT	28 December 1981	-5 to +10°F; 10 in snow	9	Bruce Harris
YANKTON	2 January 1982	7-18°F		Willis Hall

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Deuel Co.	Pierre	Rapid City	Sand Lake	Sioux Falls	Spearfish	Waubay	Wilmot	Yankton
Canada Goose				21350	1			6			
White-fronted Goose				9							
Snow Goose				7	2	3					
Ross' Goose				1							
Mallard			1	11515	777	450	61	9			3235
Gadwall				1	28						
Pintail					1						
Green-winged Teal				1	8						
American Wigeon					46						8
Northern Shoveler					1						
Redhead					1						
Ring-necked Duck											1
Lesser Scaup				6							
Scaup sp.							1				
Common Goldeneye				56	43			1			24
Barrow's Goldeneye					1						
Bufflehead					2						
Hooded Merganser				2	1						
Common Merganser				79	7						87
Goshawk		2		1						1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				4	1		1				
Cooper's Hawk					1						1
Red-tailed Hawk		1		4	3		11	1			7
Rough-legged Hawk	1		1	6	2		3	35		1	2
Ferruginous Hawk				1	2						
Golden Eagle				4	2			1			

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Deuel Co.	Pierre	Rapid City	Sand Lake	Sioux Falls	Spearfish	Waubay	Wilmot	Yankton
Bald Eagle				41				5			33
Marsh Hawk				8				1			
Buteo sp.											1
Hawk sp.											1
Falco sp.						1					1
Prairie Falcon				1				2			
Merlin	2			1				2			
American Kestrel	3	5	1	9	1	1	13	1			4
Greater Prairie Chicken				3		1					8
Sharp-tailed Grouse	5			137	7	8		3			
Bobwhite											91
Ring-necked Pheasant	1595	628	84	110	1	191	125	14	42	46	144
Gray Partridge	51	124	264			7	135		40	6	
Turkey				18	75			1			21
American Coot					9						
Killdeer							4				
Common Snipe					2		6	16			
Herring Gull				15							
Ring-billed Gull				35							
Rock Dove	154	96	144	192	52	17	438	148	102	76	364
Mourning Dove	1	2	1			1				9	
Screech Owl				1	1		1				2
Great Horned Owl	4	13	2	14		3	16	4	2	5	5
Snowy Owl									2	1	
Barred Owl										1	
Long-eared Owl		1		1							
Short-eared Owl											2

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Deuel Co.	Pierre	Rapid City	Sand Lake	Sioux Falls	Spearfish	Waubay	Wilmot	Yankton
Belted Kingfisher			1	1	8		6	6			3
Common Flicker		10			13			2	3		
Red-shafted Flicker	1			1							1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	5		2	14		5	27			2	26
Red-bellied Woodpecker		1		1		1	8				2
Red-headed Woodpecker				1			2				
Lewis' Woodpecker								6			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker											1
Hairy Woodpecker	13	18	7	20	14	2	28	13	2	14	11
Downy Woodpecker	24	46	17	27	30	8	66	25	11	31	25
Horned Lark	6690	555	181	1950	5	26	353			622	129
Blue Jay	29	31	11	1	82	3	49	31		14	22
Black-billed Magpie				15	80			20			4
Common Crow	3	58	7	1	53	1	224	50	2	45	107
Pinyon Jay					30						
Black-capped Chickadee	28	161	27	205	279	37	234	348	51	59	117
White-breasted Nuthatch	18	20	12	31	28		87	11	12	25	20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	7	1	10	54			14			1
Pygmy Nuthatch					4						
Brown Creeper	1		2	1	4		3	8	2		3
Canyon Wren					19						
Gray Catbird				1							
Brown Thrasher				1							
American Robin	30	3		115	8	1		260	16	3	5
Townsend's Solitaire				5	81			16	1		
Golden-crowned Kinglet		1			10			11			

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Deuel Co.	Pierre	Rapid City	Sand Lake	Sioux Falls	Spearfish	Waubay	Wilmot	Yankton
Bohemian Waxwing				17	216				5	12	
Cedar Waxwing	13	6		75				1	50	21	
Northern Shrike	2	1	2	8		2	1	2	1		
Loggerhead Shrike											1
Starling	119	418	115	353	973	13	1142	330	124	548	1166
House Sparrow	2100	1358	480	1780	273	650	1571	181	392	682	891
Western Meadowlark		1		4							
Yellow-headed Blackbird						2					
Red-winged Blackbird	3		44	75		221				4	3
Northern Oriole					1						
Rusty Blackbird							5			2	
Brewer's Blackbird				3			2	4			
Common Grackle	22	9	2	5	1	21			6		1
Brown-headed Cowbird				2							
Cardinal		2		3			6				42
Evening Grosbeak	1			4	637			198			
Purple Finch	16	9		30	2		3	2	25		2
Cassin's Finch					15						
House Finch					2						
Pine Grosbeak									1		
Common Redpoll	39	3	56	6	8	331	8	154	55	27	3
Pine Siskin	285	57		3	171		33	223	1		8
American Goldfinch	48		1	45	218	6	13	68		1	43
Red Crossbill	16				22			18			
White-winged Crossbill	3	16									
Rufous-sided Towhee				1							

Continued Pg 52

The 1981/82 Winter Season

by **Bruce Harris**
Box 605, Clear Lake 57226

Following a very mild November, the winter was generally colder and windier than average. In Hyde, Deuel, and other counties the 9-week period from 8 December to 14 February saw only 5 days above the freezing mark. Snowfall totalled 50 inches in Deuel Co. But the latter half of February brought a prolonged warm spell that started some migrants north early.

We experienced a big redpoll invasion throughout South Dakota. Fair numbers of northern finches were scattered about the state, with the exception of Red Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks, which were low in number. We found few wintering Red-winged Blackbirds or meadowlarks but surprising numbers of Song Sparrows. Definite increases were reported for Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Screech Owls, and Merlins; more Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks also were noted. Other outstanding records reported herein include Northern Oriole (verified but no details), Ross' Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Gyrfalcon, Barred Owl, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Audubon's Warbler, and House Finch.

For actual numbers seen on Christmas Bird Counts, refer to the account of those censuses elsewhere in this issue.

Contributors to this season's report were: Leon Anderson (LJA), Charlotte Baird (CNB), Jocie Baker (JLB), Dan Bjerke (DLB), Bruce Coonrod (BCC), Floyd Demaray (FD), Willis Hall (WH), Bruce Harris (BKH), Gervase Hittle (GH), Nelda Holden (NJH), Kenneth Husmann (KHH), Doris Knecht (DK), Bill Lemons (BL), Dennis Lengkeek (DL), Larry Lynch (LRL), Everett Montgomery (ECM), Richard Rosche (RCR), Dennis Skadsen (DRS), Harvey Smith (HOS), Mrs. Ed Spevak (ES), Gary Stava (GJS), Galen Steffen (GLS), Dan Tallman (DAT), Juli Wilcox (JEW), Nat Whitney (NRW).

HORNED GREBE--6 and 13 DECEMBER, Yankton Co., 2nd winter record for South Dakota (WH).

PIED-BILLED GREBE--2 and 8 DECEMBER, Yankton Co., only 6 or 8 winter records for state (WH).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT--4 and 8 DECEMBER, Yankton Co., no more than 3 or 4 winter records for state (WH).

Great Blue Heron--20 DECEMBER, Yankton Co. (JEW). 7 DECEMBER, Deuel Co. (BKH).

Canada Goose--1 December, Deuel Co., 25 (GJS). 26 FEBRUARY, migration started in Deuel, Grant, and Brookings Co. but birds stayed only 2 days and returned south.

Snow Goose--Rapid City and Pierre CBC. 6 FEBRUARY, Pierre (BCC, DAT).

ROSS' GOOSE--Pierre CBC. 6 February, Pierre (BCC, DAT). 27 February, Pierre (BCC). Only 3 other winter records.

White-fronted Goose--Pierre CBC.

Mallard--4 JANUARY, DEUEL CO. (BKH). See Pierre and Yankton CBC. 28 February, Turner Co., migrants (LJA).

Gadwall--Yankton and Pierre CBC. 26 December, Pierre, 9 (BCC). Seldom winters East River.

Pintail--Rapid City CBC. 6 and 27 February, Pierre (BCC). 19 February, Fall River Co., migrants (RCR). 14 January, Yankton Co. (WH).

Green-winged Teal--Pierre CBC. 31 January, Pierre (BCC). 22 FEBRUARY, Yankton Co., possibly migrants (WH).

CINNAMON TEAL--23 November, Pierre, shot by hunter, no details, late report (BCC). 5 March, escaped from Watertown zoo. Fall 1981, MCCOOK CO. (FD).

American Wigeon--Rapid City and Yankton CBC. 6 February, Pierre (BCC). December-February, Yankton Co., 3-6 (WH). More than usual wintering.

Shoveler--Rapid City CBC, possibly crippled. Very few winter records.

Redhead--Rapid City CBC. Early January, Yankton Co., 6-8 (WH).

RING-NECKED DUCK--YANKTON CBC. 8 JANUARY, Yankton Co. (WH). 25 FEBRUARY, Pierre, possible migrant (BCC).

Canvasback--12 DECEMBER and 24 FEBRUARY, Yankton Co., single birds, possibly crippled (WH).

Lesser Scaup--Pierre and Sioux Falls CBC. 17 February, Pierre (BCC). December and February, Yankton Co. (WH). Not usually a wintering species. 1 December, Brown Co. (LRL).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE--Rapid City CBC. 5 December, Rapid City (JLB). 5 February, Rapid City (RCR). 4th consecutive year at Rapid City.

Common Goldeneye--All winter, LAWRENCE CO., 1 (DLB). 28 February, Turner Co., migrants (LJA).

BUFFLEHEAD--20 DECEMBER, Big Stone Lake, possible cripple (BKH). RAPID CITY CBC.

SURF SCOTER--12 DECEMBER, Yankton Co. (WH). Probable first winter record.

Hooded Merganser--Rapid City CBC. Through 25 February, Pierre, 2 (BCC).

Common Merganser--20 December, Big Stone Lake (BKH). 6 February, Big Stone Lake (DRS). 14 February, MEADE CO. (DLB).

GOSHAWK--27 February, Grant Co. (BKH, KHH). Reports from Brookings and Roberts Co. and Rapid City and Pierre CBC.

Cooper's Hawk--12 December, Brookings Co. (NJH). Reports from Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and Yankton CBC. Seldom reported in state during winter.

Sharp-shinned Hawk--22 January, Waubay NWR (HOS). 5 February Gregory Co. (GLS). January and February, Yankton Co., 1 (WH). Rapid City and Pierre CBC.

Red-tailed Hawk--6 of 11 CBC statewide. 16 January, Brookings Co., Krider form (KHH). Many more than usual wintering. Reports from Yankton (3-4/day), Bon Homme, and Charles Mix Co. (WH).

Ferruginous Hawk--Reported from Hyde, Pennington, Hughes, and Sanborn Co.

American Rough-legged Hawk--Spearfish CBC, exceptional number.

Golden Eagle--Mid-winter survey, Gregory Co., 50, indicating big increase (GLS, DL). Reports also from BON HOMME, Sanborn, Lyman, Custer, Pennington, and Hyde Co.

Bald Eagle--Yankton and Pierre CBC. Reports also from Gregory, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Brookings, Deuel, Roberts, Lyman, Pennington, and Lawrence Co. 9 DECEMBER, Deuel Co. (BKH) and 29 JANUARY, Roberts Co. (BKH) are unusual dates.

Marsh Hawk--2 December, Deuel Co. (BKH). Pierre CBC. 2 January, Stanley Co. (BCC). 26 February, Yankton Co. (WH).

Prairie Falcon--Reports from Bon Homme, Gregory, Hyde, Hughes, Haakon, and Lawrence Co.

Merlin--22 December, Spink Co. (CNB). Pierre, Aberdeen, and Spearfish CBC. 9 reports from Brookings Co.

GYRFALCON--3 January, Clay Co., observed by falconer GH (fide BL).

Kestrel--9 of 11 CBC. All winter in Aberdeen (ECM).

Prairie Chicken--19 December, SAND LAKE NWR. Yankton CBC.

Sharp-tailed Grouse--Aberdeen and Sand Lake CBC. 13 February, Brown Co. (LRL).

Bobwhite--Yankton CBC.

Turkey--Yankton CBC.

American Coot--Pierre CBC. 6 to 19 December, Yankton Co., 4-5/day (WH).

Killdeer--6 FEBRUARY, PENNINGTON CO. (JLB). Sioux Falls CBC.

Herring Gull--27 December, Pierre (BCC).

Ring-billed Gull--Pierre CBC.

Mourning Dove--Reports from Deuel, Brookings, and Roberts Co. Numbers down from last year.

Screech Owl--12 reports from 10 counties, many more than usual.

Snowy Owl--11 reported from Day, Deuel, Roberts, Brown, Grant, and Codington Co.

BARRED OWL--Wilmot CBC (KHH).

Long-eared Owl--Brookings and Pierre CBC.

Short-eared Owl--ONLY report was from Yankton CBC.

Northern Shrike--8 of 11 CBC. Numbers down in Lawrence Co. (DLB) but 8 in Pierre CBC and 5 in Gregory Co. (GLS).

Belted Kingfisher--Reported on many CBC, an amazing 26 from 6 areas. Reported all winter from Lawrence Co. (DLB).

Common Snipe--See CBC. 5 December, McCook Co. (LJA). 1 December, Brown Co. (LRL).

Red-bellied Woodpecker--5 of 11 CBC. Also reports from Gregory, Brown, Roberts, Yankton, Lake, Hughes, and Brookings Co. These records suggest that this species is becoming well established as a winter resident and is expanding its range rapidly in South Dakota. Reported all winter at Aberdeen feeder (ECM).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER--11 to 26 February, Yankton Co., up to 5 on 21 February (WH). Pierre CBC.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER--4 JANUARY, Yankton Co. (WH).

Lewis' Woodpecker--21 January, Lawrence Co., 4 (DLB). Spearfish CBC.

Hairy Woodpecker--17-year-old bird trapped in Brookings (NJH).

Pinyon Jay--Rapid City CBC.

Gray Jay--Reports from Custer and Lawrence Co.

Black-billed Magpie--25 February, Bon Homme Co., 30 where species not regular (WH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch--7 of 11 CBC. Definitely a good flight year.

Red-shafted Flicker--Reports from Aberdeen and Yankton.

Pygmy Nuthatch--Rapid City CBC. Apparently regular in winter (and summer?) in Black Hills.

Canyon Wren--Rapid City CBC.

GRAY CATBIRD--Pierre CBC, but no details.

BROWN THRASHER--Pierre CBC. 1 December-22 January, Codington Co., 1 at Watertown feeder but died after 2d -25°F blizzard of season (ES).

American Robin--9 of 11 CBC. 18 February, Spink Co., 20 (CNB). Lawrence Co. CBC was most in 8 years (DLB).

Townsend's Solitaire--Rapid City and Waubay CBC. 28 December-30 January, Brookings Co. (KHH). 24 February, Brown Co. (LRL).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD--20 December, Yankton Co., 3 (JEW). Regular in Yankton Co., 3-4 until 19 February (WH). Seldom winters in state.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD--19 February, Fall River Co. (RCR).

Golden-crowned Kinglet--Reported only at Brookings CBC outside Black Hills. Regular in Hills.

Bohemian Waxwing--Common in Black Hills but also reported from Deuel, Hyde, Hughes, and Brown Co.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER--5 January, Yankton (WH).

Western Meadowlark--Reports from Pierre, Yankton, and Brookings. Decrease from most years.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD--Sand Lake CBC.

Brown-headed Cowbird--Pierre CBC.

Red-winged Blackbird--Reports from only 6 of 11 CBC. Definitely fewer than previous winters.

Rusty Blackbird--Reports from only 2 of 11 CBC. Down from other years.

Brewer's Blackbird--Pierre, Sioux Falls, and Spearfish CBC.

NORTHERN ORIOLE--Rapid City CBC (DK, NRW).

Common Grackle--8 of 11 CBC.

Cardinal--4 of 11 CBC. December-January, Codington Co., at feeder (ES). 23 January, Pierre (BCC).

Evening Grosbeak--Reports from only 5 areas outside Black Hills, where regular.

Pine Grosbeak--Reports only from Rapid City and Waubay CBC and 30 December, Brookings Co. (KHH).

Cassin's Finch--18 January, Custer Co., 33 (DLB).

HOUSE FINCH--Rapid City CBC, but no details.

Common Redpoll--Reports from all CBC. Definitely a flight year. 631 BANDED by DAT in Aberdeen.

Hoary Redpoll--During winter, Aberdeen, 3 banded (DAT).

Pine Siskin--Fairly common early in season but then dispersed. Reports from Sioux Falls, Watertown, Aberdeen, and Rapid City. 176 banded in Aberdeen (DAT).

American Goldfinch--winter status similar to that of Pine Siskin.

Red Crossbill--Not common in Black Hills where usually regular. Only at Aberdeen East River (DAT).

White-winged Crossbill--December-January, Brookings Co., 12 (KHH). Lawrence Co., 12 (DLB). 25 February, Brookings Co., 8 (NJH). December-February, Brown Co., small flock (2-3) (DAT).

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE--Pierre CBC.

CHIPPING SPARROW--Aberdeen CBC and at feeder through December (ECM).

Harris' Sparrow--22 birds from 7 areas. See Sioux Falls CBC.

Song Sparrow--Reports from Aberdeen, Yankton, Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls CBC. Many more than average for winter.

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continued from pg. 47

	Aberdeen	Brookings	Deuel Co.	Pierre	Rapid City	Sand Lake	Sioux Falls	Spearfish	Waubay	Wilmot	Yankton
Dark-eyed Junco									2		101
Slate-colored Junco	20	102	2	108	210	12	265	154		3	
Oregon Junco	4	5		1	31		1	14			
White-winged Junco					442			166			
Tree Sparrow	31		3	120	31	83	39	76		1	29
Chipping Sparrow	1										
Clay-colored Sparrow		1									
Harris' Sparrow	1	2		1	2		15	2			3
Song Sparrow	1			2	1		24				2
Lapland Longspur	6430	1		28							
Snow Bunting	335	6	277	16			3		211	228	4

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