

SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Late July--summer is about half over. Most breeding birds have completed their nesting and are teaching their offspring to survive in the wild world. Few birds are still singing territorial songs but, if we listen carefully, we can identify many species by their other calls.

During June, in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, several of us conducted Breeding-Bird Surveys. Chandler Robbins originally worked out this technique in the early 1960's. In June 1965 he established 3 survey routes here in western South Dakota. By 1967, we began conducting regular surveys in South Dakota. I have done at least 2 every year since 1967.

About 20 surveys were done in South Dakota in 1984--11 East River and 9 West River ones. In the central part of the state we have 12 more routes that have been run on several occasions but that have not been surveyed recently. The technique, for those not familiar with it, requires starting at a predetermined point precisely 30 minutes before sunrise--approximately 4:30 Mountain Daylight Time or 5:30 Central Daylight Time. Arriving at the starting point so early clearly creates a logistical problem. The routes are 25 miles long and consist of 3-minute stops every half mile. Surveyors must know the birds likely to be found along the route and have the ability to recognize them both by sight and voice.

We need more cooperators, especially among those who live or can easily stay in central South Dakota. Check with Dan Tallman or me at the October meeting. We can tell you precisely where the routes are located. The starting points have been picked by random sampling by the Fish and Wildlife Service and so the cooperators have no responsibility for setting the routes.

By the time you read this, you should have received a mailing about the proposed constitutional amendments to be voted upon at the October meeting in Rapid City. Please read them carefully, come to Rapid City, and be prepared to vote. Adoption of constitutional amendments requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present.



NOTES ON THE AVIFAUNA OF HARTFORD BEACH STATE PARK

by Dennis Skadsen
Milbank 57252

Introduction

I began observing birds at Hartford Beach State Park in 1981 when my wife became Assistant Park Manager. Much of the data that I have collected has been used for the park's interpretive programs. Some of the more interesting or unusual sightings are reported in this article.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks must go to Bruce Harris for helping many hours in the field and for contributing information for the bird and plant lists.

Location

Hartford Beach State Park is located in Roberts Co. along the south shore of Big Stone Lake. The park is 14 miles north of Milbank on Highway 15. Park facilities include campgrounds, a picnic shelter, and a boat launch. Well-marked and maintained trails wind through the park's 300 acres.

Description of Study Area

Almost 50% of the park is rich woods composed of Basswood, Bur Oak, Cottonwood, Green Ash, and small stands of Quaking Aspen. These woods have escaped heavy grazing and a thick undergrowth of woody and herbaceous plants remains. Also present are several areas of virgin tallgrass prairie. Two small creeks run through the park. The larger of these two, Hartford Creek, has several beaver dams, creating many small ponds. Wilcox Lake, separated from the main body of Big Stone Lake by a thin strip of land, is a large pond located within the park. Noteworthy flora of the park are listed in Table 1.

The park borders about 1.25 miles of Big Stone Lake. Much of this shore is rocky, with the deciduous woods beginning at the water's edge. Sand beaches are found east of Wilcox Lake and where Aspen and Hartford Creeks enter Big Stone Lake.

Notes on the Avifauna

To date, 167 species have been sighted within the park.

The taxa with the highest number of species of birds have been Anatidae (21), Emberizidae (19), Emberizinae (12), Accipitridae (10), and Scolopacidae (9). Breeding birds, both confirmed and suspected, are listed in Table 2.

The park is an excellent area to observe migrating birds. Nineteen species of warblers have been sighted. On 5 September 1983, I saw 28 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 17 Baltimore Orioles feeding on caterpillars in a large cottonwood tree.

This park is one of the few places in South Dakota to observe American Woodcocks. Beginning in late April, woodcocks can be observed performing courtship flights in the open areas of the park. On 10 May 1983, I counted 13 singing males. While listening to American Woodcocks on 5 May 1982, I heard a Whip-poor-will calling from a wooded draw. This nightjar was last heard calling in the area on 31 May 1982.

Bruce Harris and I have considered the possibility that Pileated Woodpeckers exist in the park. Several trees have deep gashes 3-6 inches in width and 9-16 inches in length dug into the heartwood. The Pileated Woodpecker occurs commonly during the fall in Minnesota 14 miles east of Hartford Beach. I have seen this woodpecker on the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge in November 1983.

Hartford Beach State Park attracts several species during the winter. A good supply of food is usually available, including Common Juniper, Eastern Red Cedar, and Russian Olive berries and the seeds of many herbaceous plants. One large conifer grove within the park and another nearby provide roosting sites. Open water is found along Aspen and Hartford Creeks. During December 1983 and January 1984, the species observed included Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Barred Owl, American Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxing, Northern Cardinal, Harris' Sparrow, and Common Redpoll.

Table 1. Some plants of Hartford Beach State Park.

Woodland plants:

<i>Actaea rubra</i>	Baneberry
<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	Spikenard
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit
<i>Botrychium virginianum</i>	Rattlesnake Fern
<i>Carex retrorsa</i>	sedge
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i>	Bulblet Bladder Fern
<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	Burning Bush

Eupatorium rugosum
Habenaria bracteata
Hystrix patula
Impatiens pallida
Lactuca biennis
Lonicera dioica
Prenanthes alba
Ribes americanum
Rubus occidentalis
Rudbeckia laciniata
Solidago flexicaulis
Viburnum lentago

White Snakeroot
 Bracted Orchis
 Bottlebrush Grass
 Pale Touch-me-not
 lettuce
 Wild Honeysuckle
 Rattlesnake-root
 Black Currant
 Black Raspberry
 Goldenglow
 goldenrod
 Nannyberry

Some plants of the tallgrass prairie:

Allium stellatum
Amorpha canescens
Andropogon gerardi
Andropogon scoparius
Anemone patens
Aster sericeus
Calylophus serrulatus
Chrysopsis villosa
Echinacea angustifolia
Gentiana puberulenta
Helianthus rigidus
Liatris aspera
Panicum virgatum
Prenanthes racemosa
Sisyrinchium angustifolium
Solidago nemoralis
Zigadenus elegans

Wild Onion
 Lead Plant
 Big Bluestem
 Little Bluestem
 Pasque
 Silky Aster
 --
 Gold Aster
 Purple Cone-flower
 Downy Gentian
 Prairie Sunflower
 Blazing-star
 Switchgrass
 Rattlesnake-root
 Blue-eyed Grass
 goldenrod
 White Camas

Table 2. Breeding birds of Hartford Beach State Park, 1981-1984.

Confirmed breeding:

Wood Duck
 Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
 Cooper's Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Killdeer
 Upland Sandpiper
 Mourning Dove
 Great Horned Owl

Evidence:

brood observed
 on nest with eggs
 brood observed
 observed on nest
 feeding young
 observed on nest
 observed on nest
 observed on nest
 observed on nest
 observed on nest

Common Nighthawk	nestling found
Red-bellied Woodpecker	feeding young in cavity
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	feeding young in cavity
Downy Woodpecker	feeding young in cavity
Hairy Woodpecker	feeding young in cavity
Yellow-shafted Flicker	feeding young in cavity
Eastern Wood Pewee	observed on nest
Great Crested Flycatcher	carrying food
Western Kingbird	observed on nest
Tree Swallow	nesting in box
Bank Swallow	small colony
Barn Swallow	observed on nest
American Crow	observed on nest
White-breasted Nuthatch	carrying food
House Wren	nesting in box
American Robin	observed on nest
Gray Catbird	nest with eggs
European Starling	feeding young in cavity
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	observed on nest
Clay-colored Sparrow	nest with eggs
Field Sparrow	nest with eggs
Red-winged Blackbird	observed on nest
Common Grackle	observed on nest
Orchard Oriole	carrying food
Northern Oriole	nest with young
House Sparrow	nested in box

Birds regularly observed during breeding season but without evidence of breeding:

- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Screech Owl
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Eastern Phoebe
- Rough-winged Swallow
- Blue Jay
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Brown Thrasher
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Common Yellowthroat
- Western Meadowlark
- American Goldfinch
- Chipping Sparrow
- Song Sparrow

GENERAL NOTES

LONG-EARED OWL AT COXE LAKE.--During the Spearfish Christmas Bird Count on 2 January 1984, Deane Bjerke and I, while walking through a shelterbelt southeast of Coxe Lake northwest of Spearfish, flushed a Long-eared Owl. Because it flew with an undulating motion, we knew it was not a Great Horned Owl. We flushed it 4 times from the same shelterbelt before it flew to a cottonwood tree near the road. The underparts of the wings were very light-colored with black patches near the wrists. We drove within 20 meters of the owl as it sat near the lower part of the cottonwood next to the trunk. The owl had a fairly long, slender body with a very dark back. We clearly noted the long, narrow horns, much closer together than those of the Great Horned Owl, and the rounded rusty face with reversed white V's on the inside of the eyes. We observed the owl for 10 minutes and took several photographs of it.--Dan Bjerke, Spearfish 57783.

GOSHAWK IN LYMAN COUNTY.--I do not see goshawks every day but, when I do, I study them carefully to avoid any chance of error. My latest sighting did not even require binoculars--the two birds were only 20 feet away.

On 11 November 1983, I was scouting the cottonwood thickets along the White River on the Game, Fish and Parks Department's Carpenter Area near the river's confluence with the Missouri. I turned to see a mature Goshawk tearing pieces of flesh from a cottontail. The bird, only 40 feet from me, seemed totally unconcerned with my presence, despite my red coat. As the accipiter fed, it frequently glanced into the cottonwoods. Eventually I saw what it was watching: another goshawk in drab brown immature plumage. The gray bird had bright red eyes while the immature had yellow ones. The brown bird flew to a branch lower and closer to the feeding adult. I slowly moved closer, coming to within 20 feet. The nearer I came, the more the adult spread its wings and tail to cover its prey. Eventually the hawk flushed to a branch in a small cottonwood about 30 feet away. I saw no signs of bird bands or other handling by people. I waited several minutes, hoping the bird would return to its meal. Instead it flew, skirmishing with the younger hawk, through the woods. Both accipiters alighted near the meat. I withdrew and climbed to the high bluffs, from whence I watched the two birds soar above the trees, dip into the forest, alight, chase one another, and land again. Two days later I again saw them soaring in the same

area.--Ron Spomer, Pratt KS 67124.

1983 LATE FALL DATES.--The mild weather during the 1983 fall resulted in rather late departure dates of several bird species. On 6 October 1983 I captured a Philadelphia Vireo in a trap in my yard in Burke. The bird was banded and released. This date is more than 2 weeks later than any listed in Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*. However, it is still much earlier than the sighting in Edmunds Co. on 30 October 1980 by Tallman et al. (SDBN 33:30-33). Also on 6 October 1983 I banded a female Indigo Bunting in my yard in Burke. This same bird was recaptured on 9 October, 1 day later than the late date for this species listed by Whitney et al. On 31 October 1983, in my yard I banded a Chipping Sparrow. This date is only 1 day earlier than the late date of 1 November listed by Whitney et al.--Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523.

ARCTIC HORNED OWL SIGHTED IN BURKE.--On 17 January 1984, I received a call from a neighbor to come and investigate an owl perched in a pine next to her house. I expected to find a screech owl or an ordinary Great Horned Owl. I was surprised to find a beautiful light-colored arctic subspecies of the Great Horned Owl. The bird remained in full view nearly 20 minutes, about 10 feet from the ground. The owl was very pale, almost as light as some Snowy Owls. The contrast of the bird against the dark green of the pine made for an enjoyable study. The owl remained in the tree for most of the day, but was not seen during subsequent days. This sighting was my first in South Dakota for this rare wintering subspecies of the Great Horned Owl.--Galen L. Steffen, Burke 57523.

ABERRANT YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER AT HARTFORD BEACH STATE PARK.--On 7 May 1983 I observed what I thought to be a female Three-toed Woodpecker at Hartford Beach State Park. Since I failed to observe the three-toed characteristic of the species and since the bird was several hundred miles out of its normal range, my initial identification was questionable. On 9 May 1983, I again sighted the woodpecker with a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Both birds were excavating a nest cavity like a normally mated pair. However, the aberrant individual's back was pale like the brown plumage of an immature sapsucker. The red forehead, white wing patch, and white throat of normal female Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were absent.

I sent my field notes to the research department of the

Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. They replied that my bird apparently had not molted from the brown immature plumage. Also adult sapsuckers sometimes lack red foreheads. Finally, schizochroism, a characteristic of birds that are abnormally pale and washed out due to an absence of color pigments, is a possibility. A bird with this hereditary mutation will not molt into a normal plumage pattern. Perhaps more likely my bird may have been a late-molting immature sapsucker.--Dennis Skadsen, Milbank 57252.

GYRFALCON SIGHTING.--A day of birding in the Pierre area on 4 February 1984 produced no rarities until during the return trip to Rapid City. Twelve miles west of Ft. Pierre, we spotted a Gyrfalcon perched on a haystack about 15 meters north of U.S. Highway 14/34. A uniform grayish coloration on the bird's back and upper wing surface and an obscure black moustache mark adjacent to its dark eye were clearly visible when viewed with binoculars and 22x spotting scope. A few minutes later the falcon flew to the top of a utility pole where it remained for 10 minutes precariously perched despite gusty 20-25 mph winds. We noted the falcon's size, noticeably larger than a crow, and its narrowly banded tail. Brown tones on the back-side of the body and wings became obvious when highlighted by the late afternoon sun. When flushed, the bird flew directly over our heads, revealing vertical dark brownish streaks on its white breast and wing linings. The streaking appeared to be especially dense along the flanks. The underside of the primaries appeared to be gray with faint barring.

Unlike the similarly sized goshawk, the Gyrfalcon's eye is dark brown, the underparts have prominent brownish vertical streaks, and the flight silhouette is that of a falcon. The Gyrfalcon lacked the Prairie Falcon's black axillars and was more uniformly colored and had much more muted facial markings than has the Peregrine Falcon. Also the Gyrfalcon's body was bulkier, larger, and broader at the base of the wings than either that of the Prairie or Peregrine Falcon.

We suspect our Gyrfalcon was immature. Salt and Salt in *The Birds of Alberta* state that "young birds especially wander widely before returning in spring to establish their first breeding in the arctic." The Audubon Society's *Encyclopedia of North American Birds* by Torres states that an immature's body is streaked below rather than being barred and spotted. The literature also mentions a yellow cere at the base of the adult's bill, a field mark we did

not observe.

When last seen, the Gyrfalcon was flying low over the prairie. Sightings like this one make the Pierre area an exciting place to bird throughout the year, but especially during the winter.--Jocelyn Lee Baker and Rebecca Cole-Lane, Rapid City 57702.

EARLY COOPER'S HAWKS AT OAKWOOD LAKES.--On the cold, windy afternoon of 21 March 1982, while approaching an extensive evergreen windbreak in the NE part of Oakwood Lakes State Park, Brookings Co., SD, I saw a long-tailed hawk perched on top of a pine. I noted that the tail had a rounded end, an observation that was confirmed when the bird flew. I watched this and a second Cooper's Hawk for about 20 minutes.

If the hawks were perched in pines, my approach caused them to move, either to new perches farther away, or into casual flight. When flying, they occasionally passed, unalarmed, low overhead. Although both birds were in juvenile plumage, they had the manner of a courting pair. Bent, in his *Life Histories of North American Birds* (1937), states that the juvenile plumage is retained through the first spring and that second-year birds breed in this plumage.

I found a dead Red-winged Blackbird about 75 meters from the first of the perches. The blackbird's neck was broken and its abdominal cavity was opened with part of the liver removed. Many raptors and shrikes feed by first removing their prey's liver so perhaps the blackbird had been taken by the Cooper's Hawks.

I had looked in the area for hawks during the previous two weeks but did not find any. I suspect, therefore, that they may have been migrants. If so, they were a few days before the earliest date (27 March 1966 at Aberdeen) listed for the Cooper's Hawk in *The Birds of South Dakota* (Whitney et al. 1978).--Steve Van Sickle, Yankton 57078.

OSPREYS ON THE MISSOURI RIVER.--I notice that the Osprey is listed as having been observed only rarely along the Missouri River. On 30 April 1984, I saw a pair of Ospreys flying over the Missouri near Chamberlain, SD. As I watched, one hovered near the surface and plunged feet-first into the water but evidently missed its prey. Later that evening, I observed another Osprey perched on a snag in the Missouri near Elm Creek in Brule Co.--Jack Freidel, SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Chamberlain 57325.

WEST RIVER DUNLIN SIGHTING.--The highlight of a day's birding at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge (Bennett Co.) on 5 May 1984 was the sighting of a Dunlin. Fifteen Long-billed Dowitchers and 1 Dunlin, all in breeding plumage, were seen at the south end of the wildlife loop. The shorebird flock flew when a Northern Harrier and a Peregrine Falcon flew low overhead. Although Dunlins can be seen migrating in eastern South Dakota, *The Birds of South Dakota* (Whitney et al. 1976) lists no records west of the Missouri River.--Jocelyn Lee Baker and Deborah D. Paulson, Rapid City 57702.

MIGRATING RAPTORS IN GRANT COUNTY—On 26 April 1984, 6 miles east of Milbank, Grant Co., SD, I observed a large number of migrating raptors. At about 2:15 p.m. I noted a large flock of White Pelicans to the east. While watching these birds I noted 56 Broad-winged Hawks soaring above the pelicans. I noticed that a nearby friend was observing another hawk flock in which I counted about 75 birds--mostly Broad-winged Hawks but also 2 Red-tailed Hawks and 1 Osprey. These birds represented the beginning of a line of several hawk flocks, containing 15 to 70 birds each, soaring in front of a thunderstorm moving to the NE. Five more flocks flew within a 1 mile radius of us. The majority of the birds I identified were Broad-winged, Swainson's, and Red-tailed Hawks. Many flocks were too distant for accurate species identification. We drove 3 miles north to try to identify more birds. Turning to the west, we noticed several raptors, mostly Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Swainson's Hawks, flying between 150 and 300 yards above the ground. At one point we counted 27 hawks crossing the road within 1 minute. Of these I positively identified 1 Osprey, 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Cooper's Hawks, and 5 Swainson's Hawks. Several of these birds appeared to be tired, landing at 200 to 300 yard intervals. Returning to Milbank, I noted several more raptors moving north. Arriving in town, I saw 3 Ospreys together.

Between 2:15 and 3:45 p.m., I observed over 500 raptors moving through eastern Grant Co. By 4:00 p.m. I saw only an occasional hawk. While watching the flocks, I noted that they soared in circles, gaining altitude while slowly drifting northward. After a few minutes, some of the hawks would lose altitude. The birds then moved to the north and once again gained altitude by slowly circling. Evidently the raptors were using columns of rising air in front of the storm to gain altitude, soaring on these thermals. All of the birds I observed seemed to be moving into the area in

front of the thunderstorm and disappeared as the storm moved NE into Minnesota.--Dennis Skadsen, Milbank 57252.

PARTIAL ALBINO WHITE-THROATED SPARROW IN LAKE COUNTY.--While looking into my backyard on 3 May 1984, I noticed a bird whose front half was mostly white. On closer inspection, I could tell it was a White-throated Sparrow because it still had yellow lores and 2 black stripes on the top of the head. The rest of the head, the front half of the back, and the front parts of the wings were all white. On the chest was a central gray area surrounded by white. At the base of the tail was a small white patch. Several normal White-throated Sparrows were in the yard at the same time.--Robert Buckman, Madison 57402.

PEREGRINE FALCON SIGHTING.--Four and one half miles east of Irene (in Clay Co.), on 25 April 1984, Conservation Officer Ron Schauer of Sioux Falls and I observed a Peregrine Falcon killing a Northern Pintail hen. This adult male Peregrine was directly on top of the stricken pintail in a puddle in a plowed field on the south side of Highway 46. We stopped within 60 yards of the bird and watched with 7x binoculars for about 5 minutes before confirming our identification in our field guide. The falcon attempted but was unable to fly off with the pintail. The falcon stayed with the duck while we watched. Occasionally the Peregrine flew above and around the duck before landing next to it.--Spencer Vaa, SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Brookings 57006.

WINTER FEEDING SEASON.--My 1983/84 winter feeding season was a complete success. Last year (82/83) I had one feeder and hundreds of House Sparrows. This year was different. I put up another post feeder, 3 ground feeders (at various heights), and 1 hanging suet feeder. The response was overwhelming! Within a week of putting up the feeders (27 November-3 December), I accumulated House Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays, and juncos. I later identified 1 of the latter to be an Oregon Junco whereas 2 others were the Slate-colored subspecies. On 15 December I was surprised to see a large bird land on my deck--a female Evening Grosbeak. Joined in a few minutes by another, the grosbeaks devoured sunflower seeds. On 4 February came a Pine Siskin who eventually brought 5 of his friends to my feeding station. They preferred all 3 ground feeders but occasionally I saw them on the post feeders. As spring neared, I noticed a male Evening Grosbeak. Overall, my new feeding facilities were highly rewarding.--Brian Meyer,

Brookings High School, Brookings 57006.

OAHE DAM BECOMING BIRDING HOT SPOT--Lake Oahe has more miles of shoreline than the entire Pacific Coast of the United States. With all that water, the area is becoming a birding paradise. In the spring and summer, we have observed 6 species of gulls here (Ring-billed, Herring, Bonaparte's, Franklin's, California, and Glaucous), Great Egrets, White-faced Ibis, Western Grebes, many shorebirds (including both dowitcher species and Western Sandpipers), Common Terns, Cinnamon Teal, Osprey, and many others. Although fishermen don't like it, low-water levels benefit Least Terns and Piping Plovers (I counted 19 of the plovers on 16 June 1981).

The road that juts out into the Missouri River for about a quarter mile just below the Oahe Dam is one of the better sites to search for birds. One reason this causeway is so productive is the big spring smelt run. Smelt are 7-inch fish, introduced into the Missouri by the North Dakota Fish and Game Department. The fish spawn successfully and maintain large populations that migrate in the spring. After being sucked into the intake tunnels, thousands of the silvery smelt are killed or stunned by the Oahe Dam turbines. This carnage creates a smorgasbord for gulls, cormorants, and other fish-eating birds. This "soup line" apparently also appeals to ibis and herons and holds all these birds in the area for weeks.--Ron Spomer, Pratt KS 67124.

1983 BANDING REPORT--This year I worked only with traps, no nets. My permit number is 7463. I banded the following species: 1 American Robin, 1 Black-headed Grosbeak, 79 Pine Siskins, 4 American Goldfinches, 20 Red Crossbills, 24 White-winged Juncos, 1 Slate-colored Junco, and 2 Oregon Juncos.--N. R. Whitney, Rapid City 57702.

A HOLIDAY SEASON BOOKSHELF

Reviews by Dan Tallman
Northern State College
Aberdeen 57401

The September issue of *Bird Notes* may seem a bit early to be thinking of gift giving for the upcoming Christmas season but this issue is my last chance to tell you about several very fine books that you may want to give or put on your own wish list.

The *Hummingbirds of North America* by Paul A. Johnsgard. 1983, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 303 pp. hardbound, \$35.00.

The Hummingbirds of North America is a beautiful book covering all 23 species that have been reported north of the Mexican border. The text is in 2 parts: a comparative biology of hummingbirds and a series of species accounts. The chapter on the biology of hummingbirds is not restricted to North American forms and makes fascinating and instructive reading for anyone interested in hummers in particular or birds in general. The species accounts include range, identification, ecology, breeding biology, and evolutionary relationships. Each account begins with a full-page range map that includes a pen-and-ink drawing of the species to be covered. The text begins with 16 rather handsome full-color plates of hummingbirds hovering around flowers. The book ends with a glossary and 6 appendices. These sections contain etymologies of scientific names, identification keys, lists of the world's hummingbirds, literature references, and a list of hummingbird-adapted plants in North America.

My major complaint about this book is its omission of a citation of Benson's paper in *South Dakota Bird Notes* (SDBN 33:66) in which he discusses the etymology of the genus *Archilochus*. Johnsgard may have independently arrived at the same conclusion as Benson but I am aware of no other source for the conclusion that the generic name commemorated the poet Archilochus. Finally, the wealth of information contained in this book would be more easily retrievable if the index included more than just common and scientific names.

Cranes of the World by Paul A. Johnsgard. 1984, Indiana University Press, Bloomington. 258 pp., hardbound, \$37.50.

Cranes of the World, although with color photographs and larger-sized than the hummingbird book, seems a much less flashy production. The photographs seem to be of captive birds and the paper on which the book is published, in my copy anyway, seems to have yellowed. If not a premier coffee-table book, this text does contain a massive amount of data on cranes, their behavior, ecology, distribution, and evolutionary history. Assembled here is most of what is known of the cranes of the world. Because most of the wild Whooping Cranes pass across our state, South Dakota birders generally have a particular affinity for these majestic creatures and will certainly not want to be without this text. Finally, the text begins with prominent mention of the International Crane Foundation of Baraboo, Wisconsin, an organization devoted to saving the world's cranes. People committed to crane preservation might want to contribute to that organization as well as to purchase this book.

A Birder's Guide to Minnesota by Kim R. Eckert. 1983, The Pine Knot, Cloquet Newspapers, Inc., Cloquet MN. 218 pp. spiralbound, price not given.

This revised second edition is a must purchase for any birder traveling to Minnesota. Included are directions to the state's birding hot spots, complete with county highway maps and arrows to precise locations. County by county coverage facilitates bird discovery on trips throughout the state. A bird index also makes easy the search for specific birds, regardless of county. The introductory sections supply information about the ecology of the state, its ornithology, and ornithological opportunities (bird clubs, birders, hot lines, etc.). Also included is a checklist of mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The reproduction quality of the text is excellent but most of the black-and-white photographs, possibly because they were made from slides, are not crisp.

The text is written with obvious expertise and with humor. Chapters are arranged by county and usually begin with a road map of the greater part of the area to be covered. There follow smaller area maps indexed from the larger map. One small annoyance is that often a smaller area labeled A is presented out of alphabetical order--for instance, in the Otter Tail County account, one begins with a county map, followed by a map labelled area C, followed by

B. Only after some searching did I find Otter Tail area A in the Grant Co. section.

I experimented with this book on my recent vacation trip to the East Coast. I planned to camp at Lake Itasca and then exit by way of International Falls. I really was not searching for birds and had little choice in my route. So I was disappointed to read "Itasca S. P. is not that good of a birding area" and, for International Falls' Koochiching Co., "ask not what Minnesota can do for you and your life list . . . get out there and explore Koochiching Co." This attitude was frustrating to the casual traveler: the Itasca account does not show appreciation of what is actually there, for this prairie birder found Lake Itasca beautiful and its calling loons thrilling and he would have liked to know what recorded data exist for Koochiching Co. But these are tiny complaints--this book is of great value and I shall travel nowhere in Minnesota without it.

Iowa Birds by James J. Dinsmore et al. 1984, Iowa State University Press, Ames. 356 pp. hardbound, \$27.95.

Iowa Birds is a spectacular state bird book. I should like to model the next edition of our South Dakota book after it. The birds of Iowa are covered in brief accounts that give status, habitat, seasonal distribution, comments, and references. Many accounts include range maps and excellent black-and-white photographs.

I especially liked the format for early and late migration dates. They are listed in a central column, rather than being relatively hidden in paragraph form. Having many references at the end of each account also makes for ease of use (although a separate reference section appears at the end of the book). Throughout the text, unpublished records are cited by initials, with complete names listed in an appendix. Published records are cited conventionally. This practice avoids a plethora of written names, such as appear in some of our accounts in the current issue of *The Birds of South Dakota*.

Introductory chapters include sections on definitions of species statuses, Iowa geography, and a history of state ornithology. At the book's end are a gazetteer, an index, and a state bird list. Although the text of this book was supplied to the publisher by the authors from camera-ready, and apparently computer-generated, copy, the quality of this publication is highly professional. This book is probably one that should be owned by almost all South Dakota birders, especially those who live in the southeast.

The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding edited by John Farrand, Jr. 1983, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, New York. 1244 pp., 3 volumes, softbound, \$35.00.

The problem with this photographic identification guide can be summed up by looking at the photo of the male Townsend's Warbler. Because of a shadow, the bird's central underparts appear to be jet black. One has to already know what the warbler looks like in order to avoid being confused by the illusion. Thus this book can not be recommended for beginners.

On the other hand, advanced birders will probably enjoy having these volumes on their shelves. Herein are contained high-quality color photographs of most North American species. Where a photograph was not available, an adequate drawing has been substituted. (Some of the missing photographs are really surprising--I am sure, for instance, that Pine Warbler photos exist.) Birders will welcome yet another source for identification tips for difficult species, although they will be disappointed by the lack of illustrations or photographs for the species of accidental occurrence listed at the back of each volume.

I have yet to figure out to what the word "master" refers in the title of these volumes. At first I thought these books were directed toward better than average birders. But this assumption seems not to be the case. Each volume repeats an identical introduction on how to identify birds. Did you know that "some of the best bird watching can be done right at home, if you have a place to set up one or more feeders"? Advice such as this is not for the "master" birder. In the Great-tailed Grackle account we are told how to tell this species from crows--necessary for beginners but hardly required for even intermediate birdwatchers.

The title then, if not directed to advanced birders, must refer to the editor's opinion of the worth of the book itself--i.e., he must think this the best of all field guides. But, along with the aforementioned problem of identifying living birds from photographs, this book suffers from a strict adherence to the new AOU checklist order. I would have preferred birds with similar plumage grouped reasonably close to one another (fall warblers, for example). The book has three photographs per page, which makes for nicely sized illustrations, but severely limits opportunities to portray problem species alongside one another. Of all the bird groups, the waterfowl were the

most enjoyable for me. Greater and Lesser Scaup are shown on adjacent photographs. Even flying Greater Scaups are included although, unfortunately, we find no flying Lessers.

This guide is the fourth to be reviewed recently in *Bird Notes*. Of the four (the new Peterson, Robbins, and National Geographic are the other three), the *Master Guide* I suspect is the least usable for beginning bird identifiers and will probably not be a primary source of information for more advanced birders. However, many good identification tips are available in it from some of the foremost birders in the country. Any intermediate to advanced birder will welcome this edition to his bookshelf.



THE 1984 SPRING MIGRATION

by Bruce Harris
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This season's weather can be summarized as cold, wet, and windy. In the Northeast, March brought 24 inches of snow; April was wet, cloudy and windy with no snow melt until the 10th; May continued cold, windy, and often with heavy fog. Tornadoes were spotted across the state and some storms resulted in avian mortality (robins and bluebirds were among the casualties of a severe snowstorm in the Black Hills).

Migration statewide was much delayed yet some earliest ever dates were reported. Heavy concentrations of phoebes, Broad-winged Hawks, and other species probably resulted from bad weather's delaying birds south of us; mass movements occurred as these birds finally moved north. Warbler migration was very spotty--fair on the total number of species but with only low numbers of individuals. Most observers saw no more than 8-12 warblers, whereas in a normal year one can see that many on any given day. Evanich reported 20 species, Tallman 17, and Holden 16. Only Yellow-rumped, Yellow, and a few other warblers were common; Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Wilson's, Mourning, and Canada Warblers were absent from most reports.

Galen Steffen in Gregory Co. summarized the waterfowl situation statewide when he wrote, "Due to the late spring and the abundance of water areas there was almost no build-up of ducks this spring. Once migration started, ducks seemed to overfly this area without stopping. . . Large water areas did not open up until the first week of April, 3 weeks later than usual." Although 6 species of diving ducks arrived at the Missouri River at Yankton on 28 February, they did not migrate to the Waubay-Sand Lake area until the end of March.

Observers cited in this season's report were Nanci Adams (NA); Leon J. Anderson (LJA); Dave Beck (DB); Bill Bradwisch (BB); Robert D. Buckman (RDB); Jocelyn L. Baker (JLB); Gladys Cole (GC); J. Coons (JC); Joe Evanich (JE); John Gillman (JG); Kenneth Graupman (KG); Willis Hall (WH); Winston Hall (WiH); John D. Haertle (JDH); Bruce K. Harris (BKH); June Harter (JH); Gertrice B. Hinds (GBH); Nelda J. Holden (NJH); Kenneth H. Husmann (KHH); Kent Jensen (KJ); Tim Kessler (TK); John W. Koerner (JWK); William J.

Kurtenbach (WJK); Dennis Lengkeek (DL); Michael M. Melius (MMM); Ernest E. Miller (EEM); Everett C. Montgomery (ECM); Marjorie J. Parker (MJP); Debbie D. Paulson (DDP); Richard A. Peterson (RAP); George Prisbe (GP); Mike J. Rabenberg (MJR); Rex Riis (RR); Robert G. Rogers (RGR); Linda Riner (LR); Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS); Mark Skadsen (MS); William A. Schultze (WAS); Galen L. Steffen (GLS); Dan A. Tallman (DAT); Erika J. Tallman (EJT); Charles A. Taylor (CAT); Pat Vance (PV); Kathy M. Verdon (KMV); Sam J. Waldstein (SJW); Lois Wells (LW); Nat R. Whitney (NRW); Juli E. Wilcox (JEW); A. Williamson (AW); Irma Wyler (IW).

COMMON LOON--9 April, Yankton Co., very early and 7 other Yankton sightings (WH). Also observed in Fall River and Meade Co. (RAP, JLB) and Day, Turner, Roberts, Codington, Brookings and Hughes Co.

PIED-BILLED GREBE--26 March, Turner Co., early (LJA).

HORNED GREBE--23 April, Meade Co. (JLB) and 2 May, Pennington Co. (DDP). Records from 13 April through spring from Roberts, Brookings, Hutchinson, and Codington Co.

RED-NECKED GREBE--observed only at Waubay NWR.

EARED GREBE--30 April, Pennington Co. (LR).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN--7 April, Waubay NWR and 8 April Sand Lake NWR. Nesting at Piyas, Drywood, Waubay, and Grass Lake, details later.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT--7 April, Waubay (WJK, WJK); over 80 at Kadoka Lake, Jackson Co., unusual (KG); nesting in same areas as pelican; details later.

LEAST BITTERN--21 May, Lake Co. (JE).

GREAT BLUE HERON--28 March, Turner Co. (LJA); nesting in Faulk Co., and Piyas and Drywood Lake; details later.

GREAT EGRET--11 April, Moody Co., early (LW). Also observed in Turner, McCook, Grant, Marshall, Davison, Brown, and Brookings Co.

SNOWY EGRET--25 April, Lake Co. (RDB). Also reported Kingsbury, Brown, Codington, and Hanson Co.

CATTLE EGRET--17 May, McCook Co., 16 and also 2 other sightings (LJA). Observed also in Kingsbury, Deuel, Day, Miner, Aurora, Sanborn, and Brookings Co.

GREEN-BACKED HERON--3 May, Yankton, very early (WH).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON--Observed Pennington Co. (JLB) and Meade Co. (DDP).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON --17 May, Lake Co., good details (JE).

WHITE-FACED IBIS--27 April, Brookings Co., early (KJ). Also observed in Day Co. (5, KHH) and Sand Lake NWR.

TUNDRA SWAN--Few reports; most apparently overflew the NE; reports from Day, Brown, and Yankton Co.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE--25 March, Gregory Co., 1350 (GLS). 28 April, Jackson Co. (KG).

SNOW GOOSE-- 14 February, Minnehaha Co., 2 flocks, ties earliest ever (LJA). Most seemed to overfly the NE but birds appeared at Sand Lake on 22 March and peaked there at 130,000 (KMV). 15 April, Meade Co. (JLB). Some

- late-lingering birds were 20 May, Sand Lake, 15 (many observers), 23 May, Waubay NWR (MJR), and 12 May, Codington Co. (JG).
- ROSS' GOOSE --27 March, specimen taken by LJA for U. S. Fish and Wildlife study. 30 March, Hutchinson Co., 5 in large flock of Snow Geese (LJA). 31 March, Turner Co., 6 (LJA). 30 March, McCook Co., 1 (LJA). Details of these observations will appear in the next issue of Bird Notes. One was also reported in Kingsbury Co. by Conservation Officers Limmer and Peterson.
- WOOD DUCK--22 April, Fall River Co. and 15 May, Dewey Co. (RAP). Also 2 areas of Pennington Co. (JLB).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL--None in Deuel Co. until 20 April, which is 3 weeks late and then only 2 sightings through 5 May (BKH). 14 April, Brookings Co. (NJH). Many reported from Sand Lake on 17 April (TK).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK --17 May, Hanson Co. (LJA).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL--8 March, Deuel Co., 20 and also Roberts Co. on same date (BKH).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL--None in Deuel Co until 14 April but 6 April in Brookings and Pennington Co are rather early reports.
- CINNAMON TEAL --17 April, Hyde Co. (NA, JH), early. 24 April, Sand Lake (SJW). 20 May, Turner Co., 2 males (BB). 20 May, Perkins Co. (GBH).
- AMERICAN WIGEON--27 February, Turner Co., very early (LJA).
- CANVASBACK--13 March, Yankton, 136 (WH).
- REDHEAD--19 May, McPherson Co., 85 in group, which is unusual for this time of year (BKH). 28 February, Yankton (LJA).
- RING-NECKED DUCK--27 March, Yankton, 830 (WH). 28 February, Yankton Co. (LJA).
- LESSER SCAUP--28 February, Yankton (LJA).
- COMMON GOLDENEYE--28 February, Yankton (LJA) and 4 March, Brookings Co. (NJH).
- BARROW'S GOLDENEYE --Pennington Co., wintering male remained until 11 March (JLB). 8 April, Deuel Co., brief view of single male with 2 Common Goldeneye males (BKH).
- BUFFLEHEAD--28 February, Yankton (LJA); 12 May, Meade Co. (JLB).
- HOODED Merganser--24 March, Jackson Co, pair (KG). Reports also from Brookings, Roberts, Yankton, and Brown Co.
- COMMON Merganser-- 27 May, Pennington Co., 2 males (JLB) and 6 May, Roberts Co. (BKH).
- RED-BREASTED Merganser--Reported from Lake, Codington, Deuel, Day, Sanborn, and Marshall Co. (14 birds).
- TURKEY VULTURE-- 6 April, Fall River Co., early (MJP). 14 April, Kingsbury Co. (KJ). 24 April, Deuel Co. (DB). 16 April, Lincoln Co., 4 (MS). 22 May, Sand Lake NWR (SJW).
- OSPREY--More than usual; reported from Fall River, Roberts, Brown, Pennington, Brookings, Codington, Lincoln, Marshall, Day, Gregory, and Yankton Co.
- BAID EAGLE--17 March, Fall River Co., 3 adults and 2 immatures, with immature still present on 28 May, both records late for area (RAP, MJP). 30 March,

- Waubay, 8 (JWK). Also reported from Deuel, Grant, Roberts, and Turner Co.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK--19 May, Brown Co. (NRW). 27 May, Fall River Co., 2 (RAP). These dates are in this species' nesting season but we have only one recent record for nesting in the state.
- COOPER'S HAWK--26 May, Roberts Co., nesting (BKH). Other nesting dates are: 15 May, Dewey Co. (RAP) and 30 April, Hanson Co. (LJA). 26 April, Grant Co., 4 (DRS). Observed also from Day, Brown, Minnehaha, Brookings, Pennington, and Gregory Co.--a good flight.
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK--Records from Custer, Pennington, and Gregory Co.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK--2 May, Fall River Co., good details (RAP, AW). 6 May, Fall River Co., 2 (RAP). 26 April, Grant Co., several hundred in flock (DRS). 30 April and 4 May, Gregory Co. (GLS).
- SWAINSON'S HAWK--Several observers commented that this species was more common than for several years.
- RED-TAILED HAWK--1 March, Fall River Co., Harlan's race but report without details (MJP).
- FERRUGINOUS HAWK--19 May, Brown to McPherson Co., at least 15 and a nest in Brown Co. (BKH, JG).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK--8 March, Custer Co., 6 (MJP, MPM). 29 April, Lake Co. (JE).
- GOLDEN EAGLE--17 April, Gregory Co., late for area (GLS). Also observed in Shannon, Custer, Meade, Pennington, Charles Mix, and Fall River Co., where RAP reported an active nest and 10 eagles during March-April.
- MERLIN--Pennington Co. (JLB) only report.
- PEREGRINE FALCON --5 May, Lacreek NWR, good details (JLB, DDP).
- PRAIRIE FALCON--March-April, Fall River Co., 6 pairs on territories (RAP). 14 April, Waubay, late date (JWK).
- RING-NECKED PHEASANT--Clark Co., albino (SJW)
- RUFFED GROUSE--Pennington Co., 2 areas (JLB). 21 April, Pennington Co. (LR).
- SAGE GROUSE--14 April, Fall River Co., 8 males on grounds (RAP).
- GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN--Gregory Co., continued decline (GLS, DL). 9 March, Waubay, 6 (GRW). 22 May, Day Co., 1 (MJR).
- SHARP-TAILED GROUSE--28 May, Roberts Co., 3 on grounds where birds also observed in 1982 (no check in 1983) (BKH, KHH, DRS, MS).
- CALIFORNIA QUAIL --10 May, Custer Co., pair (LR)--only report in last 6-8 years; assume these are from SD Game, Fish and Parks' release in early 1960's.
- VIRGINIA RAIL--Reports from McCook, Day, Brown, Lacreek, and Brookings Co.
- SORA--3 May, Walworth Co., dead on road (WiH).
- SANDHILL CRANE--over-flight in much of West River, reported in many areas of 6 April and in Pennington Co. on 14 April; East River reports from Brown (Aberdeen and Sand Lake), Sanborn, Waubay, Hanson, and Hyde Co.
- WHOOPIING CRANE --Undocumented report of 3 on West River and 9 over Buzzard Butte (Co.?) (fide KG).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER--6 May, Brown Co., early (DAT, EJT). 13 May, Perkins Co. (RAP). Observed also in Meade, McPherson, and Marshall Co.
- LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER--Apparently over-flew much of state--reports only from

- Roberts, Brown, and Codington Co.
- AMERICAN AVOCET--Observed in Lacreek, Custer, Pennington, and Meade Co.; nesting in Roberts, Day, and Sanborn Co.
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER--More than usual in east. 3 May, Jackson Co. (KG).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER--21 May, Deuel Co., group of 40 (BKH).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW--8 April, Custer Co., 4 very early (MMM).
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT--9 May, Brookings Co., flock of 40 (JDH). 26 April, Sanborn Co., flock of 50 (RGR). Good flight--reports from McCook, Codington, Deuel, Roberts, Brown, Lake, Hyde, and Minnehaha Co.
- MARbled GODWIT--14 April, Deuel Co., early (DB). Good numbers West River where this bird has been considered uncommon or rare--Custer Co., 20 (MMM); Lacreek NWR, 10 (JLB, DDP); also Meade and Jackson Co.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE--Day Co., over 50 (MJR) but few other reports.
- SANDERLING--3 May, Jackson Co. (KG).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER--Very common in Lake Co. (NJH). West River records from Jackson Co. and Lacreek NWR.
- LEAST SANDPIPER--Lacreek NWR (JLB, DDP).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER--4 May, Custer Co. (MMM) and also Stanley (DAT) and Hughes Co. (JLB, DDP).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER--Common East River; also observed Jackson (KG) and Meade Co. (JLB, DDP, JC).
- DUNLIN--5 May, Lacreek NWR, may be first SD West River record (JLB, DDP).
- STILT SANDPIPER--2 and 20 May, Jackson Co. (KG). 13 May, Perkins Co., 16 (RAP).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER --11 May, Lake Co., 1 with excellent details (JE). 7 May, Brown Co. (DAT).
- COMMON SNIPe--Winnowing birds in Jackson, Gregory, Deuel, Codington, Roberts, and Sanborn Co.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK--23 April, Lincoln Co., 12 calling at Newton Hills State Park (MS). 19 April, Hartford Beach State Park, 7 (DRS). Observed also in Brookings Co. (NJH, DAT, JLB).
- FRANKLIN'S GULL--2 April, Lake Co. (LJA). West River observations in Custer, Fall River (20), Meade, Gregory, and Pennington Co.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL--23 April, Jackson Co. (KG). 8 April, Yankton, and 5 other sightings (WH). 16 April, Yankton, 180 (LJA). Observed also in Hutchinson, Codington, Deuel, Day, Stanley, and Marshall Co.
- RING-BILLED GULL--Nesting on Waubay and Drywood Lakes, details later (BKH, MS, DRS).
- CALIFORNIA GULL--Nesting at Waubay Lake, details later (BKH). 19 May, McPherson Co., 2 (BKH, RR, JG). 22 April, Stanley Co., 1 (DAT).
- HERRING GULL--1 April, Brookings Co., 12, late (NJH).
- CASPIAN TERN--19 May, Lake Co. (JE).
- COMMON TERN--15 April, Codington Co. (BKH, JG), very early. Nesting at Drywood Lake, details later (BKH). Also observed in Jackson Co. (KG).
- FORSTER'S TERN--Reported from Fall River Co. (RAP).
- SNOWY OWL--15 April, Sand Lake (SJW) and 10 April, Hanson Co. (flew well) (LJA), both dates late.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET DWL--13-29 March, Brown Co., 1 (GP, DAT), see this issue's cover.

COMMON POORWILL--19 and 23 May, Pennington Co. (LR). 15 May, Custer Co., 4 (MJP).

CHIMNEY SWIFT--28 April, Brookings Co., early (KHH). 11 May, Pennington Co. (NRW).

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT--22 May, Jackson Co., Kadoka, east of normal range (KG).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER--10 April, Brown Co. (DAT). 11 April, Yankton (WH).
Also observed in Spink Co. (GC).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER--17 May, Codington Co. (BKH). 19 May, Brown Co. (NRW, RGR).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE--12 May, Roberts Co. (NJH).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER--29 May, Codington Co. (JG).

ALDER FLYCATCHER--21 May, Deuel Co. and 16 May, Codington Co., definitely heard on both occasions (BKH). 26 May, Lake Co., heard (JE).

DUSKY FLYCATCHER--20 May, Willow Creek Horse Camp in Black Hills, 4-5 singing (DOP, JC).

EASTERN PHOEBE--An exceptional flight. 9 April, Brown Co., early (OAT). 13 April, Roberts Co., 17 in short stretch of creek (DRS) (BKH saw 7 in same area on 14 May). 14 April, Brookings Co., 10 (NJH). Reported also from Custer, Spink, and Pennington Co. But not reported on 19-20 May SOOU trip.

SAY'S PHOEBE--East River records from McPherson (BKH, RR), Hyde (NA, JH), and Sanborn Co. (10 May) (RGR).

WESTERN KINGBIRD--6 May, Jackson and Pennington Co., despite bad weather.

PURPLE MARTIN--7 April, Pierre (DAT, JLB, RR), very early. 17 April, Gregory Co., latest first arrival in 10 years (GLS).

TREE SWALLOW--6 April, Brookings Co., very early (KJ). 12 April, Yankton Co., 75 (WH).

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW--28 April, Pennington Co., 15-20 after big snowstorm, early (DDP).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW--19 April, Hanson Co., very early (LJA).

CLIFF SWALLOW--22 April, Hanson Co., very early (LJA).

BARN SWALLOW--11 April, Hanson Co., very early (LJA).

PYGMY NUTHATCH--3 March to 16 April, Black Hills, 16 pairs in 4 locations (RAP). 26 March, Pennington Co. (NRW).

CANYON WREN--26 May, Harding Co., Cave Hills, perhaps first record outside of Black Hills? (JLB).

WINTER WREN--29 April, Roberts Co. (DRS). 23 April, Moody Co. (LW). 18 April, Brookings Co. (fide NJH).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD--7 March, Pennington Co., early (fide NRW). Several reporters suggested that the storm of 26-27 April was very damaging to bluebirds and robins.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH-- 3 May, Brown Co., ties earliest ever (DAT). 28 May, Brown Co. (DAT).

HERMIT THRUSH--Good flight. Codington Co., 9 (JG). 8 during period by BKH. 13 April, Roberts Co., Hartford Beach State Park, 13 (DRS). Reported also from Sanborn, Spink, Hanson, Day, Lincoln and Moody Co.

AMERICAN ROBIN--26-27 April, Perkins Co., 10 found dead after storm ("6 were huddled in a corner on the porch") (GBH).
NORTHERN SHRIKE--24 March, Fall River Co. (JLB, ODP). 12 March, Perkins Co. (GBH). 6 March, Custer Co. (MJP).
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE--9 April, Turner Co. (LJA).
BELL'S VIREO--Jackson Co., 6 banded (KG). 18 May, Hand Co., early (JLB, ODP).
PHILADELPHIA VIREO--16 May, Lincoln Co. (MS). 21 May, Deuel Co. (BKH).
MAGNOLIA WARBLER--6 May, Roberts Co., early (ORS).
CAPE MAY WARBLER--13 May, Lincoln Co., early (MS). 17 May, Brookings Co. (CAT).
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER--16 May, Lake Co., only report (JE).
PALM WARBLER--5 May, Gregory Co. (GLS).
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER--12 May, Gregory Co., banded (GLS).
BLACKPOLE WARBLER--4 May, Yankton Co., early (WH).
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER--29 April, Lincoln Co., early (MS).
OVENBIRD--3 May, Brookings Co., early (CAT).
CONNECTICUT WARBLER --19 May, Brown Co. (KHH).
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER--24 May, Brown Co., banded (DAT).
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT--Reported only from Brown and Lake Co.
SUMMER TANAGER --26 May, Brown Co., photographed and banded (DAT, EJT).
SCARLET TANAGER--Reports only from Brown (GP, DAT) and Lake Co. (JE).
WESTERN TANAGER--19 May, Brown Co., Sand Lake (Many SDOU observers). 13 May, Pennington Co., early (NRW).
LAZULI BUNTING--17-25 May, Brown Co., about 6 observed and 2 banded (DAT, SDOU field trip). Reported also from Gregory (3), Hand, Jackson, Moody, and Perkins Co.
INDIGO BUNTING-- 27 April, Brookings Co., earliest ever (KHH and many others). Lazuli-Indigo hybrid reported at Pierre by PV on 29 May.
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW--15 March, Perkins Co., hundreds (GBH). 9 April, Moody Co. (LW). 27 April, Pennington Co. (NRW).
VESPER SPARROW--6 April, Hughes Co., very early (DAT).
BAIRD'S SPARROW--19 May, McPherson Co., 1 (BKH, JG, RR). 27 May, Harding Co., 10-15 singing (ODP, JC).
FOX SPARROW--Good flight. 7 April, Waubay, many (MJR). Also common Brookings and Roberts Co. Reported from Hanson, Davison, Brown, Lincoln, Deuel, Codington, and Sanborn Co.
SWAMP SPARROW-- 8 April, Codington Co., ties earliest ever (JG).
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW--6 May, Bennett Co., Lacreek NWR (JLB, ODP).
DARK-EYED JUNCO--5 May, Gregory and Brookings Co. (GLS, NJH). 5 May, Brown Co., 1 banded (DAT).
CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR--1 April, Perkins Co., early (GBH).
BOBOLINK-- 20 April, Turner Co., earliest ever (JEW).
EASTERN MEADOWLARK--5 May, Lacreek NWR, 6 (JLB, ODP).
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD--5 May, Sand Lake, albino (WAS).
RUSTY BLACKBIRD--28 April, Brookings Co., late (JLB, DAT). 29 March, Brookings Co., 35 (NJH).

ORCHARD ORIOLE--5 May, Spink Co., very early (GC). 13 May, Meade Co. (NRW).
 PURPLE FINCH--some late-lingering birds: 16 May, Codington Co. (BKH); 12 May, Brookings Co. (NJH); 30 April, Gregory Co (GLS).
 CASSIN'S FINCH--9 April (3 males), 20 April (2 females), 4 May (1 male), Fall River Co. (RAP). 27 April, Meade Co. (EEM). 26 April and 6 May, Custer Co. 2 and 4 birds (MJP). 26 April, Pennington Co., 2 (NRW). 21 April, Pennington Co., 1 (RAP et al.).
HOUSE FINCH --5 April, Hot Springs, male at Al Williamson's feeder (RAP, AW). 6 May, Gregory Co., female (GLS). Unconfirmed reports of several more at a Belle Fourche feeder (IW). These records are more evidence that this species may be becoming established in South Dakota.
 COMMON REDPOLL--7-27 March, Moody Co., at feeder (LW).
 PINE SISKIN--No nests reported but much evidence of wide-spread nesting (courtship, immature birds, etc.) throughout the NE from Brown-Roberts-Brookings Co. GLS banded 200 in Gregory Co. from 25 April-21 May. In Brown Co. in April and May, DAT banded 223, including a barely fledged immature on 16 May. ECM reported siskins until the end of July at his feeder in Brown Co.

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CONTEST

South Dakota's natural environment is the emphasis of the fourth annual South Dakota Naturally Photo Contest. Two new categories of photographs have been added to this year's contest. One is entitled "Art in Nature," the other "Dakota Prairies." Monetary prizes worth a total of \$665 will be given away in 8 categories. Other categories include "Flora," "Fauna," "Scenic," "Underwater," "Dakota Rivers," and "Eagles." Any 35 mm slide taken in South Dakota that fits into one of these categories is eligible for competition. The deadline for submitting entries is 31 October. Entry forms and rules are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Missouri Breaks Audubon Society, P.O. Box 832, Pierre SD 57501 or calling (605) 224-1549.

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