

SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH
BIRD



DAKOTA
NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Last December I challenged SDOU members to become involved in issues that affect the future of South Dakota's birds. Becoming active in ecological debates is imperative. After reading an article in the *Rapid City Journal* in November that requested comments on a plan to log the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve in the Black Hills National Forest, I felt that I could no longer tolerate my own apathy towards issues that affect an important area of my life--birds and ornithology. Thus, in early January, I wrote the following letter to the U.S. Forest Service. If any readers wish to write me, your comments and reactions will be most welcome. Finally, I again challenge all SDOU members to become involved in ecological issues. Whatever side of an issue you choose to support, get off the fence and take action!



January 13, 1987

Ms Mary Sue Waxler
Black Hills National Forest
Route 2, Box 22, Custer, South Dakota 57730

Dear Ms. Waxler:

As President of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (SDOU), an organization of over 350 men and women interested in the scientific study of avian species, I would like to respond to the Black Hills National Forest's (BHNF) request for public comments on plans to log the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve (NWP). Since the request for public comment occurred after SDOU's general membership meeting in the fall, I can not speak for our entire membership (since this issue was not brought before that body). However, I can express personal opinions which I believe represent the concerns of many, if not all, SDOU members.

Since avian species have an essential role in all ecosystems, SDOU recognizes the importance of managing our national forests in such a way that bird species and their habitats are preserved and enhanced. Western South Dakota

and the Black Hills National Forest are ornithologically unique in several ways. It is an area in which the eastern and western ranges of several bird species meet. Thus, birds such as Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli and Indigo Buntings, Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles and Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted Flickers occasionally are found to inhabit the same area. BBNF provides breeding habitat for an endemic subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco (the White-winged Junco). The Black Hills provides breeding habitat for several species found nowhere else in the state. These species include Northern Goshawk, White-throated Swift, Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Ruffed Grouse, and Black-backed, Three-toed, and Lewis' Woodpeckers. The Black Hills is also the eastern-most breeding area for many Rocky Mountain bird species, including Clark's Nutcracker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Dipper, Canyon Wren, Townsend's Solitaire, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Western Tanager. Because of this uniqueness, proper management of the areas where these birds breed and/or reside is of utmost importance to our membership. Since several of the birds mentioned above breed in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve (i.e., Ruffed Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Northern Goshawk, etc.), management of this unique area should be different from the management of other areas in the Black Hills National Forest (especially when one considers the fact that this area was set aside by an act of Congress to PRESERVE birds and wildlife.)

Since the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve was created by an act of Congress in 1922 to "protect game animals and birds and to provide for them a breeding place," and is the only such federally designated preserve in the BBNF, I strongly believe that the preserve should be managed exclusively for wildlife. Livestock grazing should be prohibited. Logging should be excluded from the area except to improve timber stands for wildlife. Clearcutting of timber should only be permitted in exceptional cases such as managing decadent aspen stands (for Ruffed Grouse) when proper silviculture management procedure calls for this method for habitat rejuvenation.

The following comments should be considered when the Norbeck EIS draft is prepared:

1. An inventory of the location of old growth timber stands should be conducted. These stands should be excluded from any logging plans (if, indeed, it is determined that logging is a necessary management tool for wildlife). The Northern Goshawk nests exclusively in this habitat and every effort should be made to preserve these stands of timber for

nesting purposes. In the June 1986 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes*, Richard A. Peterson's study of the Northern Goshawk and old growth timber stands in the BHNH was published. In this article, Peterson states that "logging results in much less optimum habitat for Old Growth species" (i.e., Northern Goshawk). He also states that "continued logging without protection could mean extirpation" of the Northern Goshawk.

2. Since Ruffed Grouse breed in the NWP, a census should be conducted to determine where specifically this game species breeds and the location of drumming logs. Once this information has been obtained, logging (if it is part of the management plan) should leave these drumming and breeding locations undisturbed. Roads should not be constructed anywhere near the drumming logs since the drumming behavior is such an integral part of the breeding procedure and disturbance can easily disrupt this activity.

3. The National Forest Management Act requires that the United States Forest Service maintain biological diversity. Efforts should be made in the NWP management plan to increase diversity by planning for improved riparian habitat and mixed forest stands.

4. Since snags are crucial to cavity nesting bird species, special efforts should be made to preserve dead trees. Snags provide nesting cavities, drumming logs (used as part of the woodpecker's courtship ritual) and a food source. The location of snags should be determined by census techniques and provisions should be made so that they remain untouched.

5. Biologists who are familiar with western South Dakota birdlife should be hired to census and inventory bird species. Input from these same people should also be used to determine indicator species. In quickly perusing the 1983 EIS and management plan, I noticed that the Western Bluebird was mentioned. This species is not a South Dakota species. Reference should have been to the Mountain Bluebird, which is a common western South Dakota breeding species.

6. The effects of horses on trails should be studied to determine whether serious damage such as soil erosion results from this recreational activity. If damage is occurring, the exclusion of horseback riding in the NWP should be considered; or a plan for trail maintenance and restoration should be included in the EIS.

7. Finally, research, including wildlife censuses, should be conducted in the NWP to provide data that demonstrate that wildlife species are not currently doing well

and that wildlife would be enhanced by logging this area of the BHNF.

In summary, I would like to urge the Black Hills National Forest managers to: 1) manage the NWP exclusively for wildlife; 2) exclude livestock grazing; 3) exclude horseback riding if trail erosion is occurring and the BHNF can not maintain and restore the trails used in this activity; 4) allow logging only to improve wildlife habitat and prohibit logging for timber sales purposes. If logging is allowed to improve wildlife habitats, then: make every effort to preserve snags, old growth timber stands and grouse drumming logs; keep road building to an absolute minimum and restore roaded areas to prelogging conditions; allow clear-cutting of timber only when it is the best silviculture management procedure (such as with decadent Aspen stands) for the improvement of wildlife habitat.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views on the proposed logging plan for the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and hope that my comments and opinions will be given serious consideration when draft copy of the Environmental Impact Statement is written.

Sincerely yours,

Jocelyn Lee Baker, President SDOU

3220 Kirkwood Drive, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

IN MEMORIAM

Herman Chilson

Herman P. Chilson, a SDOU Director since 1956 and President from June 1965 to October 1967, died at his home at Pickerel Lake, Day County, 11 October 1986.

Herman was born on 27 September 1905 at Webster, and lived in Day County all his life. Although his major avocation was history, especially that of South Dakota and of the Norwegians in America, he found time to be active with SDOU. I do not recall when I first met him, but my first correspondence with him was in 1966, when he was president. Although not a working member of the Checklist Committee, he was very supportive of the committee's work, particularly in sharing several papers about birds reported by early explorers and Army surgeons during the late 1900's. In 1968, his article, "Knickerbocker's 1896 list of the birds of Fort

Wadsworth, Dakota Territory," appeared in *South Dakota Bird Notes*. He also published several notes on his bird observations in Day County.

For most of his life, Herman managed the family business, the Elevator Store in Webster. After retirement, he became a book dealer, and he specialized in locating small publishing companies throughout the Midwest, and then sell for them. He was particularly interested in publishers of historical books. He also helped his friends dispose of books -- one favorite recollection of mine is of the time he helped the family of our late, mutual friend, Dr. L. J. Moriarty of Watertown, after Mory's death in 1971. Mory had accumulated an extensive bird book library. After Herman inventoried the books, he sent me a partial list, asking what I might want. I selected several, but, later in the fall, Herman arrived in Rapid City (on other business) with Mory's entire ornithological library in his car. I picked out several more, but Herman said that he hoped I could buy the entire collection from the Moriarty estate, so that he could cut the prices. After discussing the deal, I, of course, did buy all the books in Mory's collection.

In his later years, Herman was less active with SDOU, although he remained the Librarian until we combined the Librarian's duties with the Editor's. Herman had planned to retire from the Board of Directors, but stayed on in the category of past-president Director.

A partial bibliography of Herman's contributions to *South Dakota Bird Notes* includes the following: Robin kills snake SDBN 8:7; Pine Grosbeaks in Day Co. SDBN 9:9; Golden Plovers in Day Co. SDBN 9:29; Downy Woodpecker eats sunflower seeds SDBN 9:30; Bitter Lake, a refuge? SDBN 9:41; Magpie in northeastern South Dakota SDBN 9:67; Evening Grosbeaks at Pickerel Lake SDBN 10:63; Cedar Waxwings in Day Co. SDBN 11:53; Pine Siskins at Waubay SDBN 11:54; Blue Herons in Day County SDBN 11:55-56; Red Crossbills in Webster SDBN 12:91; Red Crossbills in Custer County SDBN 12:91-92; Robins in Custer Co. SDBN 12:92. *N. R. Whitney, 633 S Berry Pines Road, Rapid City 57701.*

THE WAUBAY BLUEBIRD TRAIL: 1986 BREEDING SEASON REPORT

by Dennis Skadsen
Box 113, Grenville 57239

Introduction and Acknowledgments

The Waubay National Wildlife Refuge bluebird trail was designed in 1983 by the late Kenneth H. Husmann as a volunteer project in cooperation with the refuge staff (SDBN 36:4-7, SDBN 37:79-80). I began volunteer management of the trail in May 1986. This report will describe the 1986 breeding season and give a brief review of the trail's location and history. I thank John Koerner, manager of the Waubay NWR, and the refuge staff for their help and support in continuing Kenneth Husmann's work.

Trail Description

The bluebird trail consists of 95 nest boxes placed along approximately 4 miles of gravel road and 3.5 miles of dirt trails winding through the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day Co., South Dakota. 88 boxes are standard 4 x 4 inch floor design and 7 are open-top boxes constructed for better protection from mammalian predation and overheating. No changes were made in nest box design or location in 1986. But boxes were numbered and a map was drawn (Fig. 1) as a permanent record of nest box and trail locations.

Bluebird Nesting Chronology

In 1986, 18 nesting attempts were made by Eastern Bluebirds on the nest box trail. 11 nests were successful in fledging 43 young. Table 1 lists data on all species using the nest box trail. (A review of prior bluebird nesting seasons is given in Table 2.)

On 15 May, I located 6 nests during my first check of the trail. One nest contained 4 young, 2 nests had 6 and 5 eggs each, and 3 nests each contained 4 eggs. The 4 young found in Box 14, found to be 2-4 days old (after Jung 1979), represented the earliest nesting attempt on the trail. Bent (1949) listed the Eastern Bluebird's incubation period as 12 days. Using this figure, I believe incubation started about 29 April. Egg laying would have begun on 25 April, assuming incubation began with the completion of the clutch. Nest building probably began around 20 April, since bluebirds take from 4-5 days to construct their nests (Harrison 1979). On 19-20 May, I located 6 more bluebird nests on the trail. 4 nests contained 5 eggs, 1 nest held 4 eggs, and 1 nest had

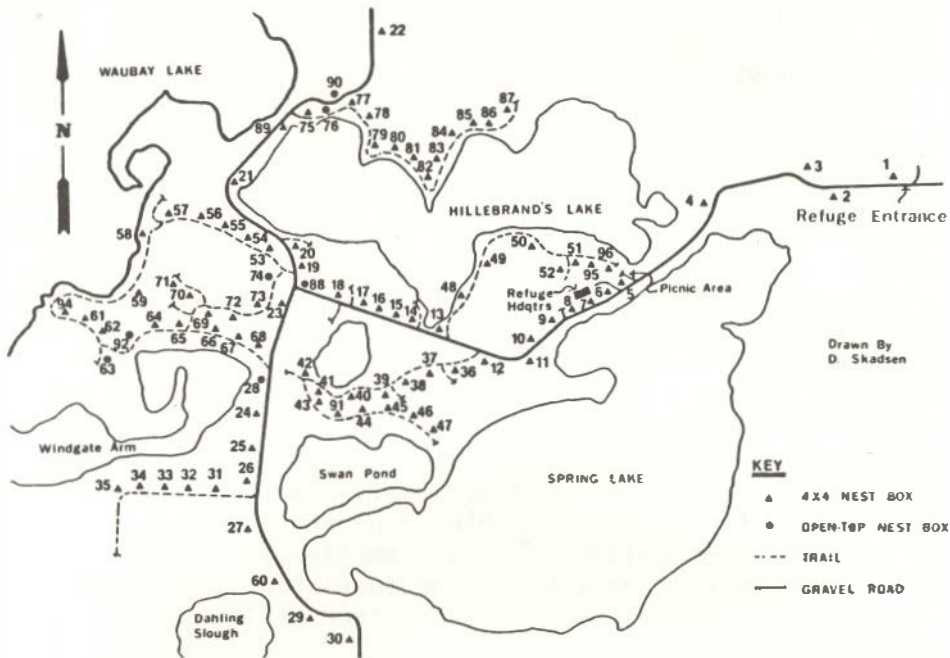


Figure 1. Waubay National Wildlife Refuge Bluebird Trail.

3 eggs and 2 young. The first brood to fledge from the trail left Box 14 approximately 1 June, about 20 days after hatching. The bluebird's nesting period is usually 15-18 days (Bent 1949).

A second nest was found in Box 14 on 13 June. The first egg was laid on 14 June, with a clutch of 4 eggs completed on 17 June. On 17 June, 2 more nests contained 4 and 5 eggs each. The second brood from Box 14 fledged around 19 July. A clutch of 3 eggs found on 12 July was the season's latest nest attempt. This nest failed due to House Wren predation.

Nesting Failure and Predation

Of the 18 bluebird nesting attempts, 7 nests failed to produce young. The most frequent causes of nest failure in 1986 were due to predation by House Wrens and to competition with Tree Swallows. Table 3 provides a summary of nest success and failure.

On 28 May, 2 bluebird nests were found abandoned with the remains of dead nestlings in each box. Tree Swallows, probably the cause for the adult bluebirds' abandonment, built nests over the bluebird remains. Hersey (1933) observed Tree Swallows constantly harassing a pair of Eastern

Bluebirds at their nest, making it difficult for the bluebirds to feed their young. The bluebirds eventually abandoned the nest. Kibler (1969), in a discussion on competition between swallows and bluebirds for nest boxes, noted that the swallow was the usual victor.

Another nest on 28 May showed signs of House Wren predation. I found 2 punctured eggs on the ground below the nest box. I discovered 3 more bluebird eggs in the box under a newly constructed Tree Swallow nest. Pinkowski (1975) noted that the House Wren is a common cause of nest failure in cavity nesting species, most often in nests containing eggs. The eggs are usually punctured and left in the nest, removed and dropped beneath the box, or carried away. At Waubay, 4 bluebird nests failed due to House Wren predation, with the majority being second nest attempts late in the season. Zeleny (1976) stated that later bluebird broods are often more vulnerable to House Wrens.

Only 1 nest failed due to mammalian predation. This nest was a nontrail nest box attached with no protection to a tree. On 17 June, this nest contained a clutch of 4 eggs and an incubating female. On 25 June, I found the nest destroyed, with all nesting material pulled from the box. Because no egg shells were found on the ground or in the box, I presume they were consumed by the predator. I removed this box from the tree and will remount it with predator baffles on a steel post. Mammalian predation on the trail boxes has been eliminated by placement of baffles on nest box posts.

Table 1. Species using nest boxes in 1986

species	Boxes used	Nest attempts	Young fledged
E Bluebird	14	18	43
Tree Swallow	75	80	ca. 425
House Wren	11	11	ca. 46

Table 2. Bluebird nesting success: 1983-1986.

Year	Number of boxes	Nest attempts	Young fledged
1983	54	24	50-60
1984	ca. 100	9	25
1985	ca. 100	12	30
1986	95	18	43

Table 3. Bluebird nesting success and failure in 1986.

Brood	Successful nests	Nest failures	Reasons for failure		
			House Wren	Mammal	Tree Swallow
First	9	3	1	0	2
Second	2	4	3	1	0

Summary

The breeding season in 1986 began on 20 April and continued through 19 July. 18 nests produced 43 young, an increase from the previous 2 years (see Table 2). 7 nests failed to produce young due to House Wren and mammalian predation or competition with Tree Swallows. The House Wren was the most common cause of nest failure.

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- Bent, A. C. 1942. Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows and their allies. USNM Bull. 179. Washington, D.C.
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GENERAL NOTES

ALBINO BLACKBIRD. On 1 August 1986, I saw a completely white blackbird. The bird was probably a Brewer's Blackbird as it was flying with a group of about 200 of these birds. My companions, Wayne Nelson and John Larson saw the bird in an oat field, 3 miles north and 1 mile east of Langford, Marshall Co., SD. *Delbert A. Nelson, Box 1364, Lander WY 82520.*

COMMON SNIPE NESTING IN DAY COUNTY. On 13 May 1986, I located a Common Snipe's nest at the West Unit of Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area, Day Co. Discovery of the nest was made after I flushed an adult snipe that gave several alarm calls and feigned injury. A close inspection of the area from which the bird flushed revealed the nest, containing four eggs, located on a tussock of brome grass within 10 feet of a small marsh.

Common Snipes had been seen and heard at this location on several different occasions prior to the discovery of the nest. On 5 April 1986, 2 males were observed in courtship flights.

This sighting is the third confirmed Common Snipe nest reported from South Dakota. The species was recently found nesting in Minnehaha Co. (SDBN 38:1-2) and is known to breed at LaCreek NWR. *Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.*

BLACK TERNS NESTING IN ROBERTS COUNTY. On 31 May 1986, Mark Skadsen and I located several Black Tern nests at the Minder Waterfowl Production Area in Roberts Co., SD. Because of their agitated behavior as we approached the slough, Black Terns were suspected of nesting at this location on 18 May 1986. When we returned on 31 May, we eventually located 9 nests, built on floating mats of cattails in water 3-4 feet deep. All the nests contained clutches of 3 eggs and had incubating adults. This species has nested at Bullhead Lake (Harris, SDBN 22:88-92). *Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.*

UNUSUAL TREE SWALLOW NESTING BEHAVIOR - FEMALES SHARING INCUBATION. While conducting a routine check of the blue-bird nesting box trail at Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day Co., SD, I observed an unusual nesting attempt by 2 female Tree Swallows. On 13 June 1986, I found 2 adult Tree Swallows in a 4 x 4 inch nest box, which contained 10 eggs. Noting brood patches on both birds, I carefully removed the swallows from the nest. Stokes (1979) stated that incubation is done entirely by the female. Bent (1942) wrote that male Tree Swallows only occasionally incubate. Based on these data, I concluded that both birds were females.

Two of the 10 eggs hatched on 17 June, with both female swallows incubating on the nest. Three days later, on 20 June, 5 eggs had hatched and only 1 female brooded the young. On 25 June and 5 July, the box contained 5 young and 5 eggs. No adult swallows occupied the nest box on either visit, although 3 agitated swallows repeatedly passed overhead. By 19 July, the 5 young swallows had fledged. Five

eggs remained in the nest and I presumed them to be infertile.

Some discrepancy exists in the literature regarding Tree Swallow clutch size. Pough (1949) and Terres (1980) cited average clutches of 4 to 6 eggs, Johnsgard (1979) listed 4 to 7, and Harrison (1979) stated 3 to 8 with 5 to 7 eggs as a common clutch. Both Bent (1942) and Harrison (1978) stated that 4 to 6 eggs are an average clutch with more than this number being the product of 2 females. Bent further cited that nests containing 10 eggs have been found. I found no mention of 2 females sharing the incubation of these larger clutches. However, Hersey (1933) mentioned a Tree Swallow nest tended by 3 adults in Massachusetts. He believed 2 females and 1 male raised the brood and observed all 3 feeding the young in the nest.

I saw a similar situation on 28 May 1986, when a box contained 3 adult Tree Swallows. This nest contained 7 eggs. However, on subsequent visits only 1 adult swallow was observed to be incubating.

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- Bent, A. C. 1942. Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows and their allies. USNM Bull. 179. Washington, D.C.
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- Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.*

LE CONTE'S SPARROW BREEDING IN DAY COUNTY. On 5 August 1986, I saw an adult Le Conte's Sparrow with 2 young at Hedtke's Pass near Waubay Lake, Day Co., SD. The adult was flushed from a patch of White Clover and became very agitated at my presence. However, I found no evidence of a nest or young. Later, upon returning to this spot, I heard 3 birds "chipping" as they ran along the ground through the thick vegetation. I flushed an adult Le Conte's Sparrow and 2 young birds from the clover. Each flew about 15 to 20 feet before dropping into the vegetation.

The young birds looked similar to the adult Le Conte's, having the same pattern of heavy dark brown stripes down their backs and a white stripe through their crowns. They differed from the adult in having light streaks across their breasts and down their sides, lacking the pinkish-brown napes, and yellow breasts and eyebrow stripes that identify an adult Le Conte's Sparrow. These young fit the late summer juvenile plumage described by Bent (1968). Because they preferred to run along the ground and flew only short distances when flushed, their behavior was typical for the species. I returned later with Bruce Harris who confirmed my identification.

The birds occupied an area of tall-grass prairie containing species of *Andropogon*, *Liatris*, *Solidago*, and *Melilotus*. Johnsgard (1979) noted that, although the prime habitat is "hummocky alkaline wetlands (fens)," tall-grass prairie, wet meadows, and the drier borders of wetlands are also used by this species. In North Dakota, the breeding season lasts from late May until mid-August.

Whitney et al. (1978) list the Le Conte's Sparrow as a rare summer resident in eastern South Dakota. The last confirmed nesting of this species in the state was on Blue Dog Slough, Day Co., on 25 June 1955 (C. Johnson, pers. comm.). Other NE South Dakota breeding season observations include a pair of agitated birds near White Rock, Roberts Co., on 13 and 26 June 1982 (Harris, 1982).

Literature Cited

- Bent, A. C. et al., comps. 1968. Life histories of North American cardinals, grosbeaks, buntings, towhees, finches, sparrows and allies. Part 2, ed. C. L. Austin, Jr. USNM Bull. 237. Washington, D.C.
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Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.

INCUBATION OF A RING-BILLED GULL CLUTCH BY A CALIFORNIA GULL AND METHODS USED TO IDENTIFY CALIFORNIA GULL NESTS. During a nest census of a gull colony on North Waubay Lake, Day Co., SD, on 14 June 1986, Mark Skadsen and I saw a California Gull incubating a clutch containing 2 creamy-white California Gull eggs and 3 buffy-colored Ring-billed Gull eggs.

Clutches larger than 3 are rare for California Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls. Harrison (1978, *A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*) stated that the usual California Gull clutch is 3 eggs. Clutches of 4-5 are rare and are possibly laid by 2 females. The normal Ring-billed clutch is also 3 eggs, with clutches of 2 and 4 being rarer.

I do not know if the California Gull laid eggs in a nest already containing Ring-billed Gull eggs or if the California collected the other eggs and placed them in its own nest. In Utah and Idaho colonies, California Gull nests contained eggs of Eared Grebes, Northern Shovelers, Cinnamon Teal, Black-necked Stilts, American Coots, and Ring-necked Pheasants (Harrison, 1979, *A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests*). Because none of these species nested near the colonies, Harrison believed that the gulls carried these eggs to their nests.

I know of no reference to gulls using "dump nests," where 2 or more females lay eggs in 1 nest, as practiced by many ducks and gallinaceous birds. However, Bruce Harris and I noted similar behavior on 28 May 1983, when we observed a clutch of 3 Ring-billed Gull eggs "dumped" in a Blue-winged Teal's nest. The eggs were placed on top of the duck eggs, suggesting that the gull laid its eggs last. We do not know which species was incubating the combined clutch. Apparently in situations of extreme competition for nesting space, such as on island rookeries in South Dakota where up to 1200 pairs may attempt to nest, Ring-billed Gulls do use dump nests.

Identification of California Gull nests is based on egg size and observations of incubating adults. Harrison 1978 gave average California Gull egg size as 68 x 46 mm; Ring-billed Gulls are smaller (59 x 46 mm). The larger eggs are easily seen in colonies where both species breed. When we census colonies, we mark the California Gull nests so that the adults can be studied. Because incubating gulls return quickly to their nests, this method of identification has proved to be very successful and, during the 1986 breeding season, has confirmed California Gulls' nesting at rookeries at Piyas Lake in Marshall Co., and North Waubay and Bitter Lakes in Day Co. The first California Gull found nesting in South Dakota was discovered on 3 July 1981 at South Waubay Lake, Day Co. (Harris 1981, SDBN 34:42) and the species has been seen nesting in Roberts, Marshall, and Day counties every year since its discovery. *Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.*

UNUSUAL NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL NUMBERS AT ABERDEEN. During warmer nights, especially in the spring and fall, my custom is to leave my mist nets open, checking them periodically, in hopes of banding nocturnal species or, at least, of learning the distribution of South Dakota bats. On 11 October 1986 I caught a Northern Saw-whet Owl (an immature male in first basic plumage), 6 years to the day that I banded my only other saw-whet owl in Aberdeen, Brown Co., in 1980.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl is considered so rare in eastern South Dakota that *The Birds of South Dakota* lists but 6 records of its occurrence in the region. I was truly surprised, therefore, to catch a total of 6 saw-whet owls in the 1986 fall (2 birds of the year in first basic plumage (1 male and 1 of unknown sex) on 27 October, and 1 adult female on 29 October, and 3, 5 and 10 November 1986 (the former an adult of unknown sex and the latter 2 immatures in first basic plumage). Apparently all the birds were caught just before dawn, as all were quite alert, giving no indication of being long in the net. Possibly the birds were attracted by nearby dripping water that I set to attract migrants.

This species is migratory and easily overlooked. However, were the species regular in eastern South Dakota, I think I would have captured it more regularly during the past years. Perhaps movements are sporadic, such as those of various winter finches. Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.

CALL FOR PAPERS

All members are invited to apply to present a paper on Saturday, 26 September 1987 at the IBBA/SDOU meeting to be held in Rapid City, SD, on the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology campus.

Presentation proposals should include: presenter's full name and address (including home/work phone numbers), presentation title and brief abstract, required time and list of audio-visual equipment needed. Biographical information (for speaker introduction) is also requested.

Potential presenters should submit their proposals by 1 April 1987 to: Jocelyn Lee Baker, SDOU President 3220 Kirkwood Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702

BOOK REVIEWS

A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia by Graham Pizzey. 1980. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 460 pp. hard bound, \$35.00.

A Field Guide to Birds of the USSR by V. E. Flint, R. L. Boehme, Y. V. Kostin, and A. A. Kuznetsov. 1984. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 353 pp. hard bound, \$68.50.

A Guide to the Birds of Columbia by Steven L. Hilty and William L. Brown. 1986. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 836 pp. hard bound, \$95.00, softbound, \$42.00.

Birds of New Guinea by Bruce M. Beehler, Thane K. Pratt, and Dale A. Zimmerman. 1986. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 294 pp. hard bound, \$65.00, softbound, \$37.50.

During the last few years, Princeton University Press has published a series of expensive and very high quality field guides to the birds of various parts of the world. Other titles in the series include Ridgely's *A Field Guide to the Birds of Panama* and De Schauensee and Phelps' *A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela*. With uniform cover designs, the books are stunning on any bookshelf.

At least 3 types of birders might be interested in paying a relatively steep price for a guide to the birds of a far off location. First is the book collector. These tomes are unlikely to ever lose value. Second is the ornithologist who is interested in the appearance and behavior of many of the world's birds. The third, of course, is he who contemplates actually birding in these countries. Even if travel is a long way off, birders should purchase these books before they are out of print and hard to find. If you ever do feel the urge to travel, it is imperative that you be aware of these texts.

Probably the most beautiful book in this collection is *Birds of Columbia*. The plates are mainly by Guy Tudor, one of the greatest bird illustrators. His antbird and parrot plates are simply nonpareil. My only disappointment is that I've seen many of these plates before, in *Birds of Venezuela* and *Birds of Panama*! When a species is not found in Columbia, it is cut out and replaced by a Columbian bird. This plate sharing may deter the collector's purchase, but in no way detracts from the book, since no reproduction quality seems to be lost. But I do wonder why this economy did not

reduce the book's price.

Birds of Columbia contains a remarkable amount of information, considering it covers 1475 species, many of which also occur elsewhere in South America. Accounts include behavior, habitat, voice, and breeding seasons, as well as range and identification marks. Identification marks are also listed opposite each of the 56 plates (almost all in color), which results in a minimum of page-flipping in the field. Ranges are given in pictorial form in a series of maps at the book's end. Of special interest are habitat photos, lacking in the other books in this series, and a short section on finding birds. One can only be saddened by the warning that "several potentially productive areas may no longer be visited safely," presumably due to terrorist activity.

Of all these texts, *Birds of the USSR* has the greatest potential to be of aid to the sedentary South Dakota birder. We do have some chance of finding soviet-Asian birds, such as a shorebird, duck, or pipit, drifting our direction. This edition is actually a translation of a Russian book published in 1968. I own this earlier edition, which is now yellowed with age. Although somewhat fuzzy and dull-colored, the plates of the original are acceptable. The plates of the English edition are so sharp, it is hard to believe they are the very same plates as in the first. The difference between publishers is amazing. Furthermore, with acid-free paper, none of the Princeton editions should yellow.

The accounts are well organized with sections on field marks, habitats, calls, ranges, and notes on similar species. Birds found in the USSR since 1968 are added in the translation. Also new are an introduction to the English edition and a translator's forward. The introduction describes soviet biomes and has paragraphs on birding regions (i.e., European USSR, Siberia). The forward contains a rather chilling list of obstacles to birding in the Soviet Union: "the tight, highly structured tourist itineraries generally available....are not compatible with effective or enjoyable bird watching." Such advice makes one very glad to be a citizen of the free world.

New Guinea contains a remarkable diversity of birds (725 species) crowned by the legendary birds of paradise. The 55 plates, most in color, are uniformly excellent. The format of the text is similar to the Columbian book, with short species descriptions opposite the plates and concise but information-laden species accounts.

Particular attention is given to bird calls, with some diagramed with line-graphs (time vs. frequency). The intro-

duction warns that jungle species are notoriously difficult to see and that birders must be adept at identification by sound. The difficult terrain of this island undoubtedly contributes to the diversity of the birds but it also makes New Guinea very difficult to explore. Apparently, competent guides are essential. The introduction, which contains interesting sections on local ecology and convergent evolution, also advises on proper etiquette for visitors. My experience has been that this latter quality is often regrettably lacking, occasionally to their detriment, in some otherwise quite intelligent birders. Even the most cursory perusal of *Birds of New Guinea* will instill an urge to see this island.

In many respects, *Birds of Australia* is the most difficult to review. The artwork is acceptable but much more primitive than that in the other texts and ranges from excellent, lifelike kingfishers and rollers to stilted, specimen-like, as though cut out with a cookie cutter, honeyeaters. Furthermore, more black and white plates appear in this book. I think black and white pictures of soaring hawks are more difficult to use than those in color. The text is hard to read because the print is tiny. Also, unlike the other guides, the accounts are in single column form (not double). This layout makes it difficult to find what you are looking for quickly. Finally, no text faces the individual plates. We in North America are spoiled by field guides with text and even range maps opposite the pictures. The range maps (essential for the birder unfamiliar with Australian geography) are in an end section. The result is page flipping between the plates, the text, and the maps. One hopes that a bird in the field stays still.

The big plus for this book is Peterson-style lines pointing to critical field marks on the plates. Roger Peterson has patented this system and he is thanked for his permission to utilize it in the introduction. I wish that he would give his system to the public domain, because it would greatly improve other field guides.

The introduction is short and lacks ecological or bird-finding data. In all, 720 species are found in Australia. The accounts give notes on field marks, similar species, voices, habitat, nesting descriptions, ranges and status. In conclusion, if *Birds of Columbia* would be the first choice of the book collector, *Birds of Australia*, would be a first choice for the birder even remotely contemplating travelling to that continent. Unlike the other tomes, it is not printed in the United States, but in Hong Kong. I suspect that, while the other books are for tourists visiting

the respective countries, the *Birds of Australia* may well have a market within Australia, hence enjoying a larger number of copies with a resultant lower price per copy. *Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.*

Birding with a Purpose by Frances Hamerstrom;. 1984, Iowa State University Press, Ames. 130 pp. \$13.95.

Birding with a Purpose, the sixth of Dr. Frances Hamerstrom's books, relates the adventures of a dedicated raptor bander. With her husband Frederick, she is recognized for landmark studies of prairie-chickens in Central Wisconsin. A sideline, and later a full-time pursuit, is her interest in birds of prey. She has written over 60 articles on raptors and has been an active bird bander since 1936.

She banded her first bird, a chickadee, with a solid gold link from a necklace in her jewelry box. This episode gives a hint to Dr. Hamerstrom's priorities: a solid gold necklace has less value than the need to tell one chickadee from another. This start led to homemade color bands, marking with brightly colored feathers, and eventually to her Master's thesis, "Dominance in Winter Flocks of Chickadees," published in 1942.

And so began her life as a bird bander. Dr. Hamerstrom writes, "chickadees were a stepping stone -- no more. I like the little creatures, but birds of prey have cast their spell on me." This book vividly shows just how strong that spell has been.

Several chapters detail her "Hawk Owl Expedition of 1962," when she travelled over 2000 miles through the deep snow of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and southern Ontario. She and her assistant saw 23 Hawk Owls and trapped 21 of them on small bal chatri traps. Dr. Hamerstrom describes the adventures (and misadventrues) of the winter trip -- living out of a van, getting caught in blizzards, and astonishing the local residents and police.

No obstacle was too large if Dr. Hamerstrom wanted to trap raptors! She tells of being challenged to band eaglets in a treetop nest. Being told that the nest was in a peach tree, and "knowing full well that there isn't a peach tree in the world that can't be mastered with a fourteen-foot step ladder," she agreed to band the birds. When confronted with a "sky-busting" beech tree, she had second thoughts, but decided that "the honor of the Hamerstoms was at stake." She reached the nest by climbing a neighboring tree and crossing to the beech on small limbs, with some hair-

raising moments along the way. Both eaglets got banded!

In every story, Dr. Hamerstrom's determination, ingenuity, and sense of humor shine through. She has dealt with hardships most of us would consider daunting (obviously, she enjoys telling stories with shock value). The book is illustrated with photos and with drawings by Jack Oar, a bander and falconer. Particularly interesting are Oar's drawings of Dr. Hamerstrom's various traps and baits.

Dr. Hamerstrom's previous (and best) book, *Strictly for the Chickens* (Iowa State University Press, 1980) describes her early years in Wisconsin and her prairie-chicken studies. Unfortunately, that excellent book is out of print. *Birding with a Purpose* adds dimension to the autobiography of the earlier book. Full of fascinating stories, the text throws in a bit of instruction along the way. The book is not intended to be an instruction manual on raptor banding. I found it somewhat disappointing that Dr. Hamerstrom does not say more about what she actually learned from her banding studies. But the adventures and friendships she had make good reading. In the end, she leaves us with this thought: "I am most drawn to birders who are trying to do something, and are sufficiently disciplined to learn about our world of birds." *Marjorie Glass, Box 151, Wall 57790.*

Wildflowers of the Northern Great Plains by F.R. Vance, J.R. Jowsey and J.S. McLean. 1984. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. Softbound 336 pp. \$14.95.

This field-guide sized picture book of wildflowers includes photographs and line drawings of more than 400 species known from the northern plains of western North America. Although written by Canadians to cover flowers of the western plains provinces, 215 of the 298 illustrated species also occur in Van Bruggen's *The Vascular Plants of South Dakota* (1976, Ames: University of Iowa Press), making *Wildflowers of the Northern Great Plains* a valuable tool for learning about our prairie flowers.

The book is designed to be used by both casual flower watchers and botany students. The species are grouped by plant families. By using this guide, one becomes familiar with family characteristics and begins to appreciate how the species are related. Each species description includes both the scientific and common English name. One drawback for South Dakotans is that the common names are Canadian, thus, for example, our Pasque flower is called a Prairie Crocus. This difficulty with variable common names is rampant in botany. For that reason, to reduce confusion of multiple

common names for one species or, worse yet, the same common name referring to several different species, anyone seriously interested in learning plants should try to learn the scientific names.

The authors provide photos of the entire plant and a close-up of the flower for 298 species. Also, when appropriate, a detailed line drawing of the flower, seed or fruit is included. The text accompanying each photograph describes the flowers, leaves, and fruit in scientific terminology with sufficient detail that positive identification can be made. Information on growth habit, habitat, and time of flowering adds to the text's usefulness. References to similar species to the ones illustrated are provided at the conclusion of each description.

I highly recommend this book. It is beautifully designed to educate the novice on botanical identification. The book begins with a thoroughly illustrated glossary of leaf, flower and fruit terminology that results in a very readable text. Indexing is provided by plant families, scientific and common names, and by flower color. The scope of the book is sufficiently restricted so that it is usable and not overwhelming. Finally, the dichotomous key to plant families that begins the text introduces the salient characteristics of the most common families of our region. Anyone, beginner or advanced student, will find this book a great asset in prairie wildflower identification. *Erika Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.*

THE 1986 FALL MIGRATION

By Bruce Harris and Mark Skadsen
Box 605 Clear Lake 57226

This season was outstanding. Earliest ever dates were established for 11 species of warblers, redpolls, and, East River, Evening Grosbeaks. Latest ever dates were recorded for 13 species, including Smith's Longspurs, Stilt Sandpipers, White-faced Ibis, Say's Phoebes, and 2 egrets. Rare birds included Vermillion Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, an East River Gray Jay, Red Knot, Summer Tanager, Rufous Hummingbird and Gyrfalcon. An unprecedented invasion of Clark's Nutcrackers occurred in the Black Hills. Richard Peterson wrote, "I and many others have had sightings daily all throughout the period, from the Wyoming line to Hot Springs. Anytime one spent a little time in a spot, one

could expect to hear or see Clark's Nutcrackers--must be hundreds of birds in the S. Hills." Last, but not least, Dan Tallman banded 7 saw-whet owls that he believes were migrants, rather than local birds.

Corrections to the 1986 Summer Season report (from Dennis Skadsen): American White Pelican: Piyas Lake (DRS, MD, Judy Qualm, and Steve Kurkowski), Waubay Lake (DRS, MD, JQ, SK), N. Waubay Lake (DRS, MSS); Double-crested Cormorant: Piyas Lake (DRS, MD, JQ, SK), E. Waubay Lake (DRS, MD, JQ, SK), add 17 on shore (DRS, MSS) the date 14 June; Great Blue Heron: Piyas Lake (DRS, JQ); Ring-billed Gull: Waubay Lake (delete LL).

August was cool with rainfall well above normal and with a fine warbler migration; September continued cool and wet; October began the same, but dried and became warm during the last half; November began warm and dry, the second week, however, saw a major storm, with 8-16 inches of snow West River and, little snow with below zero temperatures East River. Although November warmed at the end, apparently many lingering birds moved out of the state during the cold.

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report: BNP = Badlands National Park, LNWR = LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge, SLNWR = Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, WNWR = Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

Observers cited in this report are:

Jocie L. Baker (JLB)	Everett C. Montgomery (ECM)
Gil Blankespoor (GB)	Robin K. Nelson (RKN)
Ralph L. Bryant (RLB)	George Palmer (GP)
Peter Carrels (PC)	Marjorie J. Parker (MJP)
Nancy Ernst (NE)	Richard A. Peterson (RAP)
Mike H. Getman (MHG)	D. George Prisbe (DGP)
John M. Gilman (JMG)	Robert G. Rogers (RGR)
Marjorie A. Glass (MAG)	William A. Schultze (WAS)
Carolyn E. Griffiths (CEG)	Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS)
Dave A. Griffiths (DAG)	Mark S. Skadsen (MSS)
Willis Hall (WH)	Galen L. Steffen (GLS)
Bruce K. Harris (BKH)	Mrs. Elmo Swenson (ES)
Lavina A. Harris (LAH)	Dan A. Tallman (DAT)
August Hoeger (AH)	Erika J. Tallman (EJT)
Nelda J. Holden (NJH)	Steve Van Sickle (SVS)
John W. Koerner (JWK)	Sam J. Waldstein (SJW)
Karen Kronner (KK)	Darrel G. Wells (DGW)
Michael M. Melius (MMM)	Lois I. Wells (LIW)
Ernest E. Miller (EEM)	Nat R. Whitney (NRW)

COMMON LOON--14 September, Perkins Co. (DAG). 22 September, Yankton Co., 2 (WH). 26 October, Perkins Co., Shadehill Reservoir (DAG).

PIED-BILLED GREBE--7 November, Gregory Co., 7 (GLS). 12 November, SLNWR (SJW). 13 November, Yankton Co. (WH).

HORNED GREBE--19 October, Meade Co., Bear Butte (JLB). 23 October, Deuel Co. (BKH).

HARED GREBE--1-24 August, Perkins Co., East Lemmon Lake, 30 (DAG). 2 November, Meade Co., Bear Butte, 2 (JLB).

WESTERN GREBE--25 October, Kingsbury Co., 3 (LIW). 26 October, Perkins Co., Shadehill Reservoir, 10 (DAG). 12 November, SLNWR (SJW). 30 November, Yankton Co., latest ever (WH).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN--29 November, Deuel Co., Clear Lake, cripple recovered on ice, apparently went 2 weeks without food or open water (BKH).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT--4 October, Perkins Co., 300 (DAG). 11 November, Day Co., 1 (DRS). 29 November, Yankton Co., ties latest ever (WH).

AMERICAN BITTERN--25 October, Brookings Co. (OGW).

GREAT BLUE HERON--5-26 October, Perkins Co. (DAG). 11 November, WNW (JWK). 16 November, Roberts Co., Hartford Beach (BKH).

GREAT EGRET--25 October, Kingsbury Co., 13, ties latest ever (LIW). 21 October, Day Co. (DRS). 11 August, Day Co., 11 (MMM).

SNOWY EGRET--25 October, Kingsbury Co., 2, latest ever (LIW). 1 September, Brookings Co., 2 (NJH). 19 September, SLNWR, 2 (SJW).

CATTLE EGRET--1 September, Brookings Co., 30 (NJH). 11 October, SLNWR, 87 (WAS). Also reported from Brown, Day, and Spink Co.

GREEN-BACKED HERON--August, Deuel Co., nesting (fide ES).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON--12 August, Faulk Co., Scatterwood Lake (BKH). 13 September, Brown Co., 1 in roost with Black-crowned Night-herons (DAT).

WHITE-FACED IBIS--9 November, Day Co., Hedtke's Pass (where probably bred), 25, latest ever (JWK).

TUNDRA SWAN--11 October, SLNWR, 10, early (WAS). 12 October, McPherson Co., 76 (DAT). 4 November, WNW, 32 (DGP).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE--28 August, Yankton Co., earliest ever (KK). 26 October, Gregory Co., 750 (GLS). 2 November, Perkins Co. (DAG).

SNOW GOOSE--1 November, SLNWR, 132,000, late peak migration (WAS). 7 November, WNW, peak fall migration (MHG). 16 November, Roberts Co., (BKH).

WOOD DUCK--16 November, Pennington Co., Canyon Lake (JLB). 14 November, Kingsbury Co., cripple? (MSS). 1 October, Grant Co., 80+ and Roberts Co., 50 (BKH). 11 September, WNW, 100 (MHG). August, Gregory Co., Burke Lake, 3 broods (GLS). Also reported from Bennett, Meade, and Perkins Co.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL--9 November, Day Co., male, cripple? (DRS).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK--August, WNW, botulism (fide DRS).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL--mid-August, WNW, first migrants seen (MHG).

GAOWALL--30 November, Yankton Co., 8, ties latest ever (WH). 2 November, Meade Co. (JLB). 12 November, SLNWR, late (SJW).

CANVASBACK--3 October, WNW^R, 400 (MHG). Due to continued population declines, this fall's hunting season was closed for Canvasbacks.

RING-NECKED DUCK--11 November, Day Co., Pikerel Lake, male (DRS).

LESSER SCAUP--15 November, Roberts Co., Hartford Beach, female (DRS, MSS).

OLDSQUAW--11 November, Yankton Co. (WH).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE--8 November, Rapid City, Canyon Lake, male for 9th year (JLB).

HOODED MERGANSER--2 November, Meade Co. (JLB). 11 November, Day Co. (DRS).

COMMON MERGANSER--9 November, Brown Co., 7 (DGP). 17 November, WNW^R, 50 (RLB, MHG).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER--2 November, Perkins Co., East Lemmon Lake, 2 (DAG, CEG). 2-11 November, Perkins Co., Shadehill Reservoir, 2 (DAG, CEG).

RUDDY DUCK--16 and 24 August, Meade Co., adult with young (JLB). 21 August, Roberts Co., female with downy young (BKH). 5 September, Deuel Co., female with 3 small downy young, late (BKH).

TURKEY VULTURE--17 August, Gregory Co., 2 (GLS).

OSPREY--7 November, Yankton Co., 3, late (WH). Also reported from Custer, Day, Gregory, Minnehaha, Perkins, and Sandborn Co.

BALD EAGLE--23 September, WNW^R, early (MHG, RLB). 27 November, Perkins Co., adult (DAG). Many reports this season, including SLNW^R and Custer, Day, Deuel, Roberts, Meade, and Yankton Co.

NORTHERN HARRIER--22 November, Moody Co. (LIW).

COOPER'S HAWK--23 August, LN^WR (JLB). Also reported from Brule, Custer, Day, Deuel, and Roberts Co.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK--Reported from Day and Deuel Co.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK--7 September, Marshall Co., immature (DRS). 20 September, Sioux Falls, kettle of 15 (MSS). 3 October, Brown Co. (DAT).

SWAINSON'S HAWK--12 October, Harding Co., 2 (MJP). 13 October, Grant Co. (DGP). 25 October, Kingsbury Co. (LIW).

RED-TAILED HAWK--29 October, Grant Co., Harlan's form (DGP).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK--15 August, Deuel Co., 2, very early (BKH). 1 September, Brown Co. (DAT). 12 October, Harding Co. (MJP). 26 October, Jackson Co., 3 (JLB). Also reported from Butte and Custer Co.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK--11 October, Harding and Butte Co., 11 (RAP). 28 November, Tripp Co., 14 (RAP).

GOLDEN EAGLE--1 October, Perkins Co., 2 adult (DAG). 30 October, Day Co., immature (RLB). 1-3 November, Custer and Pennington Co., groups of 7 and 8 birds (MMM). Also reported from BNP.

MERLIN--25 October, Custer Co., 1 imm. (RAP). 27 November, Perkins Co. (DAG).

GYRFALCON--4 October, Butte Co., white phase bird (EEM). 11 November, Perkins Co., 1 gray phase bird just N of Shadehill Reservoir (DAG, CEG).

PRAIRIE FALCON--August, Day Co., sick bird taken to SDGF&P. 9 August, Spink and Day Co. (MMM). 12 October, McPherson Co., hunting waterfowl (DAT). 11 November, Deuel Co. (BKH, DRS).

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE--6 and 12 November, WNW^R (MHG).

VIRGINIA RAIL--10 October, McPherson Co. (DAT). 24 August, Meade Co. (JLB).

AMERICAN COOT--9 November, Kingsbury Co., 20 (LIW). 11 November, Perkins Co. (DAG).

SANDHILL CRANE--25 September, Gregory Co., 400 (GLS). Also seen in Day, Brown, Meade, and Pennington Co.

WHOOPIING CRANE--3 November, Brule Co., 3, very late (MMM).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER--16 August, Butte Co., 2 (JLB).

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER--31 August to 1 September, Brown Co., 5 (DAT, EJT, JLB).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER--15 August, Butte Co., Belle Fourche Reservoir, 3 (JLB).

PIPING PLOVER--16 August, Butte Co., Belle Fourche Reservoir (JLB).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS--3 November, Deuel Co. (BKH).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS--11 November, Yankton Co., late (WH).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER--25 October, Deuel Co., latest ever (BKH). 25 August, White Butte (DAG). 13 October, Meade Co. (JLB).

RED KNOT--5 September, Deuel Co., close observation of fall-plumaged bird, details later (BKH).

SANDERLING--19 September, Yankton Co. (SVS).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER--4-22 August, Perkins Co., E Lemmon Lake, 2 (DAG).

WESTERN SANDPIPER--12 August, Faulk Co., Scatterwood Lake (BKH).

LEAST SANDPIPER--4-12 August, Perkins Co., E Lemmon Lake, 2 (DAG). 16 August, Meade Co. (JLB).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER--16 August, Butte Co. (JLB). 16 August, Perkins Co. (DAG). 27 September, Brown Co. (DGP, PC).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER--17 July, Roberts Co., 20 (BKH). 30 August, Hughes Co. (JLB). 27 September, Brown Co. (DGP, PC).

STILT SANDPIPER--2 November, Perkins Co., E Lemmon Lake, latest ever (DAG).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER--13 October, Grant Co., 11 (DGP). 17 October, Day Co. (DGP).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK--1 September, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, 1 (DRS).

RED-NECKED PHALARPE--30 August, Brown Co. (DGP, DAT, JLB). 1 September, Butte Co., 3 (JLB).

FRANKLIN'S GULL--10 August, Perkins Co., 6 (DAG). 16 August, Butte Co., Belle Fourche Reservoir, 120 (JLB).

BONAPARTE'S GULL--2 November, Perkins Co. (DAG, CEG). 21 November, Yankton Co., late (WH).

RING-BILLED GULL--13 November, Day Co. (MHG). 13 September and 3 October, Fall River Co. (MJP).

CALIFORNIA GULL--30 August, below Dahe Dam (JLB).

CASPIAN TERN--1 and 10 September, Roberts Co., 2 (BKH). 19 September, SLNWR (DAT). 26 September, Brookings Co. (SVS).

COMMON TERN--21 September, Grant Co., 2 (DGP).

FORSTER'S TERN--16 August, Butte Co., Belle Fourche Reservoir, 2 adults with 4 young, first West River nesting outside LNWR (JLB).

BLACK TERN--4 August, Perkins Co., E Lemmon Lake, 7, possible breeders (DAG).

MOURNING DOVE--11 November, WNWR (MHG). 15 November, Roberts Co. (ORS, MSS).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO--23 August, LNWR (JLB). 27 September, Sanborn Co. (RGR). 28 September, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, very late (DRS, MSS).
SNOWY OWL--25 November, SLNWR (WAS).
BARRED OWL--10 August, Lawrence Co., Spearfish Canyon, call heard (BKH).
LONG-EARED OWL--22 November, Deuel Co. (BKH).
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL--11 October to 10 November, Brown Co., 7 banded, see General Notes (DAT).
COMMON NIGHTHAWK--26 August, Custer Co., 100's (MMM). 5 October, Minnehaha Co., 2, very late (PH).
COMMON POORWILL--19 August and 22 September, Custer Co. (MJP).
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD--11 August, Moody Co. (LIW). 13 August, Roberts Co., female on nest, young observed on 16th, 1st confirmed SO nesting (BKH). 14 August, Day Co. (DRS). 30 September, Brown Co., latest ever (DGP). Also seen in many other eastern counties.
RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD--17 August, Rapid City, 1 adult male at feeder (NRW).
BELTED KINGFISHER--11 November, Codington Co. (JMG).
LEWIS' WOODPECKER--26 August, Custer Co., 4 juveniles (MJP).
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER--8 October, WNW (JWK).
BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER--9 August, Lawrence Co., pair feeding young, details later (BKH, LAH). 13 August, Custer Co., Jewel Cave, female (JLB).
PILEATED WOODPECKER--21 October, Grant Co., details later (DGP).
WILLOW FLYCATCHER--5 August, Day Co., Hedtke Pass, singing (DRS).
DUSKY FLYCATCHER--17 August, Lawrence Co. (JLB).
EASTERN PHOEBE--28 September, Codington Co., late (JMG).
SAY'S PHOEBE--24 October, SLNWR, latest ever (DAT). 4 August, BNP, 4 fledged from 2nd brood of nest on porch (MAG).
VERMILION FLYCATCHER--27 September, SLNWR, second state record, details later (DGP, PC).
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER--27 September, SLNWR, latest ever (DGP, PC).
GRAY JAY--27 September, SLNWR, 2nd E River Record, details later (DGP, PC).
CLARK'S NUTCRACKER--28 August, Custer Co. (NRW). 17 September, Lawrence Co. (MMM). 19 September to 30 November, Custer Co., average of 2 daily at feeders (MJP). 23 November, Custer State Park, 10 (RAP). Abundant in S Black Hills throughout season (RAP).
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH--25 August, Brown Co. (DAT). 24 October, Brookings Co. (NJH). 8 October to 30 November, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, 3 (DRS).
BROWN CREEPER--4 October, Brown Co., heavy migration with 13 banded during period, compared to a yearly average of 4.6 banded (DAT).
CANYON WREN--23 November, Custer State Park, French Creek (RAP). 27-28 November, Pennington Co., seen and heard (MMM).
HOUSE WREN--6 October, Gregory Co., very late (GLS). 25 September, Brown Co. (DAT). 30 September, Moody Co. (LIW).
SEDGE WREN--28 September, Codington Co. (JMG). 19 and 27 October, Sanborn Co., very late (RGR).
MARSH WREN--5 November, Sandborn Co., late (RGR).
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET--20 September, Brown Co., very early, 26 banded

during period compared to yearly average of 9.2 banded (DAT). 21 September, Brown Co. (DGP). 28 September, Day Co. (DRS).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET--7 September, Lincoln Co., early (MSS). 12 September, Deuel Co. (BKH). 26 October, Moody Co, late (LIW). Brown Co., 16 banded (DAT). Also reported in Codington and Gregory Co.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD--2 November, WNWUR (JWK). 4 Nov, WNWUR (DGP).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD--8 August, Custer Co., Argyle Road, 100 (MJP). 20 September, Fall River and Custer Co., 300 in 5 flocks (RAP). 2 November, Pennington Co. (NRW).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITARY--22 September, Brown Co., earliest date outside of Black Hills (NE). 27 November, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, 4+ (DRS, MSS).

VEERY--9 September, Brown Co., 1 banded, late (DAT).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH--6 October, Brown Co., 1 banded (DAT).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH--25 August and 12 September, Brown Co. (DGP). Gregory Co., none this fall (GLS). Few reports of thrushes this season.

HERMIT THRUSH--4 October, Brown Co., 1 banded (DAT). 11 October, Codington Co. (JMG).

VARIED THRUSH--16 November - season, Day Co., Pickerel Lake (DRS et al.)

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD--14 August, Hand Co., Miller (GP).

WATER PIPIT--19 October, Meade Co., Bear Butte, 8 (JLB). 27 October, Aurora Co. (RGR).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT--14 August (2) and 11 September (1), Perkins Co., Vobedja Reservoir (DAG).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING--6 November, Brown Co., 3 (DAT). 11 and 17 November, Codington Co. (JMG). 17 November, Day Co., 15-20 (DRS). 24 November, BNP, 120 (MAG).

NORTHERN SHRIKE--22 October, Custer Co., early (MJP). 16 November, Brown Co., 1 banded (DAT). Also reported in Tripp and Perkins Co.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE--9 November, Brown Co., late (DGP). 19 October, WNWUR (DAT, RKN). 24 October, SLNWUR (DAT).

SOCIATARY VIREO--21 August, Lincoln Co. (MSS). 21 September, Grant Co. (DGP). Also reported in Codington, Minnehaha, and Roberts Co.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO--19 September, Day Co. (DRS).

WARBLING VIREO--1 October, Brown Co., latest ever (DGP).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO--23 August, Minnehaha Co., 3, early (GB, MSS). 14 September, Brown Co. (DAT).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER--1 September, Brown Co., earliest ever (DAT, EJT). 20 September, Codington Co., 1 male and 1 female (JMG).

TENNESSEE WARBLER--23 August, Minnehaha Co., early (GB, MSS).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER--1 September, Brown Co., (DAT) and Day Co. (MSS) both early.

NASHVILLE WARBLER--18 August, Roberts Co., Sodak Park, earliest ever (BKH).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER--31 August to 1 September, Brown Co. (DGP, DAT, JLB). 17 September, Minnehaha Co., 5 (AH). 20 September, Codington Co. (JMG).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER--30 August, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

CAPE MAY WARBLER--19 August, Roberts Co., Sodak park, earliest ever (BKH).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER--2 September, Minnehaha Co., earliest ever, male (AH). 14 September, Gregory Co., male, details later (GLS).
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER--26 August, Minnehaha Co., early (MSS).
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER--1 September, Brown Co., 4th state record (DGP, DAT).
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER--17 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER--19 August, Roberts Co., Sodak Park, earliest ever (BKH). 23 August, Minnehaha Co., 3 (GB, MSS).
PINE WARBLER--19 August, Roberts Co., Sodak Park, earliest ever (BKH). 23 August, Minnehaha Co. (MSS).
PALM WARBLER--20 September, SLNWR (ECM). 5 October, Brown Co. (DAT, DGP, RKN).
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER--19 August, Roberts Co., Sodak Park, earliest ever (BKH). Also reported from Brown and Minnehaha Co.
BLACKPOLL WARBLER--18 August, Roberts Co., 2 earliest ever.
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER--23 August, Deuel Co., early (BKH).
AMERICAN REDSTART--19 August, Roberts Co., earliest ever (BKH).
OVENBIRD--21 August, Deuel Co., early (BKH). 2 September, Brown Co. (DGP).
MOURNING WARBLER--17 August, Deuel Co., earliest ever (BKH). 19 September to 1 October, Brown Co., late (DGP).
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER--24 August, Lawrence Co. (JLB).
WILSON'S WARBLER--25 October, Brown Co., banded, very late (DAT).
CANADA WARBLER--18 August, Roberts Co., Sodak Park, earliest ever (BKH). 21 August, Lincoln Co. (MSS).
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT--23 September, Brown Co. (DAT).
SUMMER TANAGER--7 September, Deuel Co., details later (BKH).
NORTHERN CARDINAL--Brown Co., last year's residents in Aberdeen did not survive into summer and the species was absent in the summer and fall (DAT).
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK--19 October, Minnehaha Co., immature, latest ever (MSS).
BLUE GROSBEAK--23 August, Harding Co. (DAG).
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW--16 August, Meade Co., adult with young, late (JLB).
SAVANNAH SPARROW--5 August, Day Co., Hedtke's Pass, adult carrying food to and fecal sacs from nest, late (ORS).
BAIRD'S SPARROW--12 August, Faulk Co., 3 mi. W Orient (BKH). 1-19 August, Perkins Co., Grand River National Grassland, fairly common nester (DAG).
LE CONTE'S SPARROW--6 August, Yankton Co., 2 (WK). 19 October, Spink Co. and 27 October, Sandborn Co. (RGR). 6 August, Day Co., adult and fledgling, photo, first definite nest record since 1885 (ORS). 30 September, Deuel Co., 8 (BKH).
FOX SPARROW--20 November, Brown Co., photo (RKN).
LINCOLN'S SPARROW--4 September, Brown Co., 2 (DAT). 12 September, Deuel Co. (BKH).
SMITH'S LONGSPUR--5 November, Deuel Co., latest ever (BKH).
SNOW BUNTING--24 October, Brown Co., 1 (DAT).
RUSTY BLACKBIRD--8 November, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, 25 (ORS). 16 November, Perkins Co. (DAG).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD--3 August, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, young being fed by adult goldfinch (DRS).
 ROSY FINCH--7 November through season, BNP, 30 (MAG). 6 November, Pennington Co., 7 (NRW).
 PURPLE FINCH--24 October to 30 November, Day Co. (DRS). 21 November, Brookings Co. (NJH).
 CASSIN'S FINCH--1 August to 16 October, Custer Co., ca. 6 at feeder (MJP).
 RED CROSSBILL--11 October - 30 November, Day Co., Pickerel Lake 20-30 (DRS). 15 October, Gregory Co., 25 (GLS). 27 October, Brookings Co., 3 (NJH).
 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL--25-30 November, Brown Co., 1 (DAT, EJT).
 COMMON REDPOLL--12 October, WNW, earliest ever (RLB). Also reported from Moody, Roberts, and Brown Co.
 PINE SISKIN--1 August - 30 November, Custer Co., 100 daily at feeder (MJP).
 EVENING GROSBEAK--27 September, Codington Co., earliest ever (JMG). 17 November, Day Co. (DRS). 19 November, Brown Co., 3 (DAT, EJT).
 HOUSE SPARROW--August-September, Faulk Co., full albino (MMM).

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SDOU/NOU SPRING MEETING

VALENTINE, NEBRASKA

15-17 MAY 1987

HEADQUARTERS: ST. NICHOLAS PARISH HALL, VALENTINE, NEBRASKA.
FRIDAY EVENING SPEAKER: GEORGE VANDEL (SD GAME, FISH AND
PARKS) ON THE INTERNATIONAL SHOREBIRD HABITAT PROJECT.
SATURDAY EVENING SPEAKER: DR. DIANA TOMBACK (UNIVERSITY OF
COLORADO AT DENVER) ON THE CLARK'S NUTCRACKER.

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