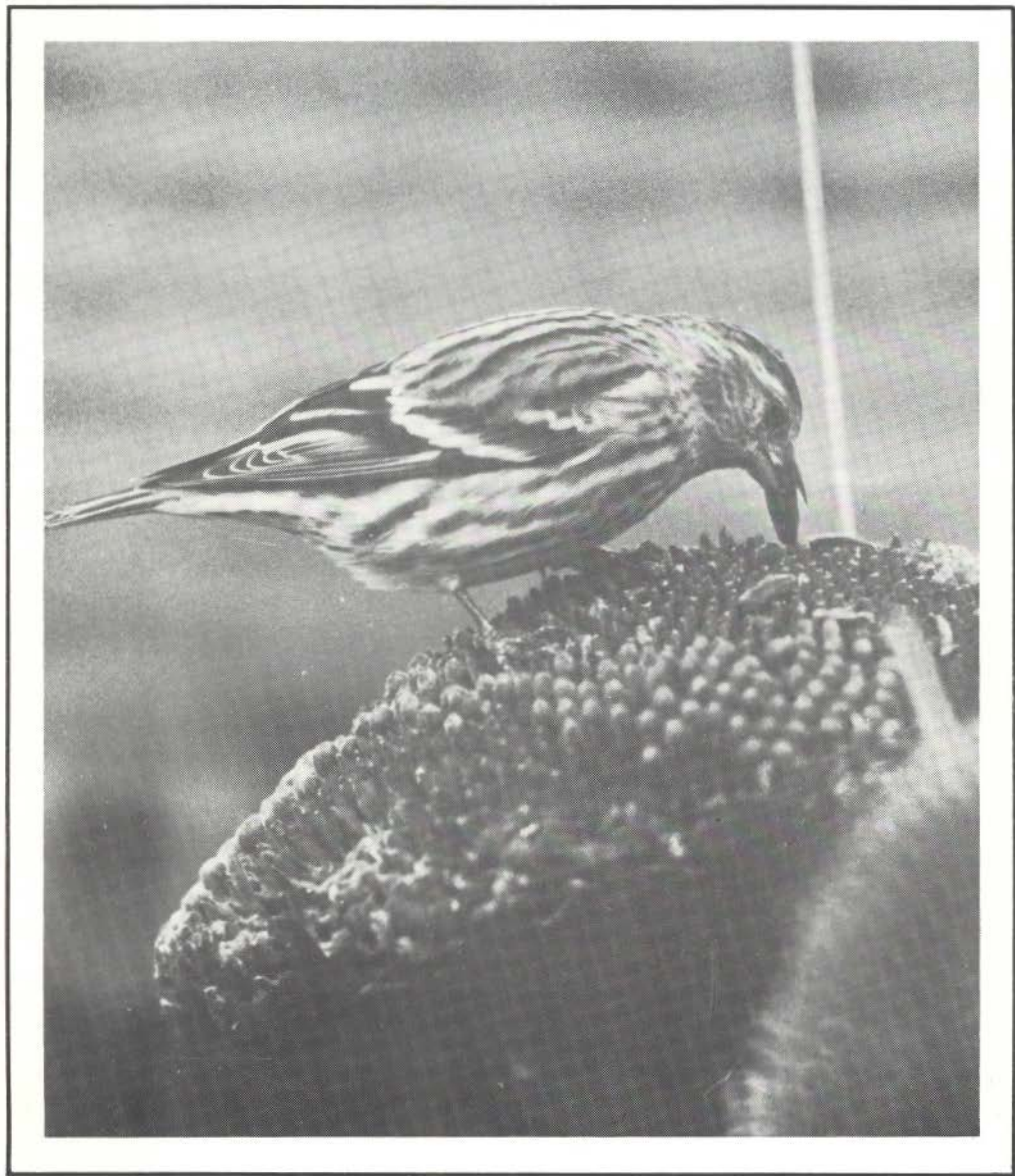


SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Fall 1988 SDOU meeting in Pierre occurred on 9-11 September. A dozen excellent presentations about habitat management and ornithology were given to over 50 participants. The elections and business meetings resolved several issues (see upcoming *Lark Bunting*). For example, the Family Life Membership shall be 17 times (or the nearest \$25 amount) the rate of the Family Membership. Also discussed was that in 1989 the SDOU will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Plans are underway to provide an insight into the early years by some of us who made the commitment to join together and give us what is now SDOU. The 1989 Autumn meeting will focus on SDOU's history and honor its founders. Please join in next Fall's celebration.



This last week of September has the fall migration in full movement, allowing me to witness large concentrations of raptors and passerines in Stanley County. I have not recorded any of my observations and yet I know others may be interested in some of these sightings. Therefore, I would like to emphasize the season reports compiled by Dennis Skadsen, SDOU vice-president. These reports give information to birders and scientists about when species occur in South Dakota. These data become a reference that is published in *Bird Notes* and will be the basis for some of the information to be published in the upcoming book, *Birds of South Dakota*. I encourage all of us to report our records to the Season reports.

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID J. HOLDEN

1924-1988

Five to six decades ago, Dave Holden lived a boyhood life on a family farm in a time of economic depression and drought. He experienced a sea of native plants and wildlife, collected spent shotgun shells left by a multitude of hunters in that pothole country, and ran a muskrat trap line.

Dave came to love native flora and fauna. Later he learned all of their names and relationships as he leaped over the barriers of BS, MS and PhD degrees at SDSU and the University of Chicago.

From elsewhere--parents, friends, a few rare teachers, writings of naturalists, his wife Nelda's love of nature--Dave fastened tenaciously onto a holistic and human attitude toward life forms and the land. He was one of

those rare people whose learnings and loves transcended the narrow vocational fences of our society.

In 1983 he wrote, "It bothers me that we are responsible in less than 100 years for killing off a biotic system. It bothers me that we train people to take care of themselves but not to take care of their planet. What are we to tell our children? That we destroyed the prairie to give them insecurity in a materialistic world?...Is there not a need for seeking fulfillment in the biological world?...Are material gifts enough for the child who wishes to be human?"

Dave's book, *Dakota Visions*, published in 1983, testifies to his dedication, creative energy, and knowledge. He needed years of time and many miles to gather the information in that volume. He wrote in the introduction, "...man is becoming a burden...one has only to witness the deterioration by soil erosion, ecological simplification, mineral depletion, water and air pollution, over-population, urban blight, fossil fuel removal, and extinction of species at 1000 times the natural rate. It makes one wonder if God should issue an ultimatum: 'Save the system if you are to save yourselves.'"

Dave was a deeply thoughtful man. As he lay dying, he would often ask such questions as "How does force become feeling?" From his more philosophical friends, he drew some answers that pleased him.

Dave also had a sense of humor, but not the one-liner kind. For example, in describing a field trip, Dave noted "...there were those old standbys; you know, the ones who stand by while you set up the tent, make dinner, and wash the dishes."

The "new physics" also caught Dave's eye. He wrote: "It tries to tell one of the interconnectedness of all things, explains eastern religion, and yes, God."

Dave was active in the Nature Conservancy. It grew from a handful of people in 1954 to over 400,000 nationally and to over 500 in South Dakota. Dave was in it all the way, finding unspoiled areas to save, helping to manage them, raising money to pay for them, and guiding visitors over them: Altamont Prairie in 1962, Sioux Prairie in 1955, Ordway Prairie in 1975, Aurora and Clovis Prairies in 1977, Crystal Springs Prairie in 1987. Dave had a hand in them all. Those are his greatest monuments. They are dynamic, living communities.

On fielded trips to Conservancy preserves and other places of interest to naturalists, Dave told the hikers what they were seeing and something of the geological and human history of the areas. It will be at those places each year that we will most miss his wry humor and his knowledge. *Darrell Wells, RR 4, Box 233, Brookings 57006.*

A CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE PLATTE CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA, CHARLES MIX COUNTY, 1984-1986.

by Dennis Skadsen
Box 113, Grenville 57239

Introduction

The following observations were made from July 1984 to April 1986 at Platte Creek State Recreation Area where I resided. Observations were made daily and separated into sightings made between the 1st and 15th of each month, and the 16th until month's end. Observations are graphed accordingly on the checklist.

Location

The recreation area is located along the east shore of Lake Francis Case on the Missouri River, 6 miles south and 8 miles west of Platte, SD, Charles Mix Co. Facilities at the site include campgrounds with electricity, comfort station, boat launch, marina, one temporary and one year-round residence, and a fish rearing impoundment.

Description of the Study Area

The park lies in the tallgrass transition zone. A list of plants observed on the upland prairie within park boundaries is given in Table II. Several groves of Eastern Red Cedar, Ponderosa Pine, and Green Ash are located in the recreation area and provide important wildlife cover and food. Cottonwood and willow are found along protected shorelines.

The recreation area is bordered on the east by heavily grazed pasture and irrigated cropland. The elevation of the reservoir is about 300 feet lower than the Coteau du Missouri, which rises from the east shore. On the west shore of Lake Francis Case, the Pierre Hills rise about 700 feet above the reservoir, with many heavily wooded ravines of Eastern Red Cedar, Bur Oak, and Green Ash.

Shorelines are highly erodible, due to fluctuating water levels, which may vary from one half to one foot in elevation in a week's time. Reservoir levels were lowered in late fall by several feet, leaving large mudflats for shoreline. The reservoir froze during the last week of December 1984, and in the last week of November 1985. Ice went off the reservoir during the last two weeks of March. Water levels rose to normal heights by late spring. Due to the fluctuating water levels, little emergent or submergent vegetation is found along the shore. Cattails and bulrush are found in protected bays with flowing springs or streams.

Notes on the Checklist

WATERFOWL. Waterfowl began returning to the study area during the second week of March as areas of open water appeared in bays and along the shore. Diving ducks like Common Goldeneyes and mergansers were the first to arrive, along with Mallards and Canada Geese. Many of these

birds may have wintered below the Fort Randall Dam in southern Charles Mix Co. Occasional spring migrants included Common Loons, Horned and Eared Grebes, and Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers. The Western Grebe was an uncommon fall migrant along this portion of the reservoir, and was not observed during the spring or summer months. The species is commonly seen on Lake Andes, about 25 miles southeast of Platte Creek, where it is known to breed.

I occasionally observed large waterfowl concentrations. On the evening of 4 December 1984, over 6000 Mallards rafted on Platte Creek adjacent to the recreation area. On 9 November 1985, a large and unusual Snow Goose migration flew south during an early winter storm (see Steffen, SDBN 38(3):68). On this same date, large numbers of Canada Geese, Mallards, Common Mergansers, and Ring-billed Gulls also moved downstream.

RAPTORS. Turkey Vultures were seen occasionally during the breeding season, suggesting possible nesting near the recreation area. Ospreys were seen during the fall migration in September and October, but were not observed during the spring migration. Bald Eagles arrived in the area during the first half of November and remained through March. Golden Eagles arrived a month earlier, during the first two weeks of October. These birds were seen occasionally through the winter months, up to the first week of March. Red-tailed Hawks were the most common raptor observed. Swainson's Hawks were seen only once in the area. Rare and uncommon raptors include Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS. Greater Prairie-Chickens occupied two leks at the recreation area. Males began "booming" during the first week of April and continued into May. These birds were observed in June and may have nested in the area. Sharp-tailed Grouse were not seen in the recreation area.

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS. Sandhill Cranes were common during spring and fall migrations. On 15 October 1985, a peak number of 1378 birds per hour passed overhead. Once during the 1985 spring, a single crane fed along the shore.

Shorebirds were uncommon, except for the Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers. Almost all shorebirds observed in the recreation area were found on the sewage lagoon and fish rearing impoundment. High water levels on the reservoir left little exposed shoreline or mudflats for migrating shorebirds to feed in 1985 and 1986.

GULLS AND TERNS. Ring-billed Gulls were common from March through the first half of December. These birds were noticeably absent during June, the peak breeding season for this species that nests in the northeastern corner of South Dakota and northcentral North Dakota. On several occasions, large flocks of Ring-billed Gulls fed on shad driven to the surface of the reservoir by Silver Bass.

Large flocks of migrating Franklin's Gulls were common on the reservoir in September. Forster's and Black Terns were common, except in June, all spring and summer.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH ROBIN. Black-billed Magpies occurred all months except May through July. During these months, magpies were common on the west shore of Lake Francis Case, across from the recreation area.

Black-capped Chickadees were common during all months except during the breeding season. The same was true for the American Robin, absent during May and June. The area is an important wintering area for robins. During the 1984-85 winter, between 50 and 100 robins wintered in the recreation area and about 250 wintered during 1985-86. An hour before sunset, large flocks of robins began arriving to roost in Eastern Red Cedar groves. The birds left the area in the morning. During inclement weather, robins remained in the area to feed on cedar berries.

House Wrens were not noted during the first summer of observations. In the 1985 spring, I placed several nest boxes near the residence and attracted several pairs of nesting wrens, which were observed throughout the breeding season.

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS. Northern Shrikes were infrequently seen from December through February. Whenever birds were seen frozen motionless at feeders, within moments, a shrike almost always would be sighted.

Bell's Vireos were common from the last half of May through September. They usually inhabited Green Ash groves. One active nest parasitized by a Brown-headed Cowbird was found during the 1985 breeding season.

Only seven warbler species were seen in the recreation area. The most common migrant parulids were the Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The Nashville Warbler and Northern Parula, considered uncommon and rare by Whitney et al. (*The Birds of South Dakota*), were observed in 1985.

Table 1. Breeding Birds of Platte Creek State Recreation Area, 1984-1986.

species	date	Evidence
Mallard	6-16-85	9 downy young
Killdeer	5-16-85	3 downy young
Western Kingbird	7-03-84	nest with young
Eastern Kingbird	6-15-85	adult on nest
Barn Swallow	7-18-84	nest with eggs
House Wren	6-17-85	nest with eggs
Cedar Waxwing	7-06-85	nest with young
Bell's Vireo	7-07-85	nest with eggs
Blue Grosbeak	8-23-85	flightless young
Brown-headed Cowbird	7-07-85	egg in vireo nest
Orchard Oriole	6-15-85	adult on nest

SPARROWS AND FINCHES. Common wintering species included American Tree Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch.

Table 1 lists all species confirmed as breeding or suspected of breeding within the boundaries of the recreation area. Other birds regularly observed during the breeding season but without evidence of breeding are Ring-necked Pheasant, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Northern Oriole, and American Goldfinch. Table 2 summarizes the birds of the area and their seasonal occurrences.

Table 2 A seasonal review of the birds of the Platte Creek State Recreation Area.

SPECIES	MONTH OBSERVED											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Common Loon												
Pied-billed Grebe			*	*	*				*	*	*	
Horned Grebe				*	*				*	*	*	
Eared Grebe				*	*				*	*	*	
Western Grebe											*	
American White Pelican				*	*				*	*	*	
Double-crested Cormorant				*	*				*	*	*	
Great Blue Heron			*	*	*				*	*	*	
Green-backed Heron				*	*				*	*	*	
Greater White-fronted Goose				*	*				*	*	*	
Snow Goose											*	*
Canada Goose			*	*	*				*	*	*	
Green-winged Teal			*	*	*				*	*	*	
Mallard			*	*	*				*	*	*	
Northern Pintail			*	*	*				*	*	*	
Blue-winged Teal			*	*	*				*	*	*	
Northern Shoveler				*	*				*	*	*	
Gadwall			*	*	*				*	*	*	
American Wigeon			*	*	*				*	*	*	

SPECIES	MONTH OBSERVED											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Canvasback			*									
Redhead			*									
Ring-necked Duck			*								*	
Lesser Scaup			*	*	*	*						*
Common Goldeneye			*	*	*	*					*	*
Bufflehead			*	*	*						*	*
Hooded Merganser											*	*
Common Merganser			*	*	*	*				*	*	*
Red-breasted Merganser				*						*		
Ruddy Duck										*	*	
Turkey Vulture				*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Osprey								*	*	*		
Bald Eagle		*	*	*							*	*
Northern Harrier			*	*	*					*	*	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				*				*				
Northern Goshawk											*	
Swainson's Hawk					*							
Red-tailed Hawk			*	*		*		*	*	*	*	
Rough-legged Hawk			*								*	

SPECIES	MONTH OBSERVED												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Golden Eagle	*	*	*							*	*	*	*
American Kestrel									*	*			
Merlin											*		
Peregrine Falcon	*												
Gray Partridge								*	*	*	*	*	
Ring-necked Pheasant	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Greater Prairie Chicken	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
American Coot				*	*	*			*	*			
Sandhill Crane			*	*	*				*	*	*	*	
Semipalmated Plover							*						
Killdeer			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
American Avocet								*					
Greater Yellowlegs										*			
Lesser Yellowlegs				*	*			*			*		
Solitary Sandpiper							*						
Spotted Sandpiper							*	*	*	*			
Least Sandpiper									*				
Baird's Sandpiper								*					
Pectoral Sandpiper								*	*				

SPECIES	MONTH OBSERVED											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Franklin's Gull				*	*	*			*	*		
Bonaparte's Gull				*	*							
Ring-billed Gull			*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Herring Gull				*					*			
Forster's Tern				*	*		*					
Black Tern							*	*	*			
Mourning Dove				*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Black-billed Cuckoo						*		*	*			
Great Horned Owl		*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*
Common Nighthawk					*	*	*	*	*			
Chimney Swift								*				
Belted Kingfisher				*	*		*	*	*	*		
Red-headed Woodpecker								*				
Red-bellied Woodpecker										*		
Downy Woodpecker	*			*	*	*						
Hairy Woodpecker									*			
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Say's Phoebe									*	*		
Western Kingbird					*	*	*	*	*			

SPECIES	MONTH OBSERVED											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Eastern Kingbird					• •	• •	• •	• •	•			
Horned Lark	*	*	*							•	• •	
Purple Martin					•							
Tree Swallow				•	• •	• •						
Northern Rough-winged Swallow					• •	•	•					
Bank Swallow							• •					
Cliff Swallow								•	•			
Barn Swallow				•	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •			
Blue Jay	• •	• •	• •	• •	•	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •		•
Black-billed Magpie	• •	•	• •	•				•		• •	•	• •
American Crow	• •		• •	• •	• •	•			•	• •	• •	• •
Black-capped Chickadee	• •	• •	• •			•	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •
Red-breasted Nuthatch									•			
House Wren					• •	• •	• •	• •	• •			
Eastern Bluebird										•		
American Robin	• •	• •	• •	• •			•	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •
Gray Catbird					•	• •	•	•				
Brown Thrasher				•	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •			
Cedar Waxwing	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •		•	• •	• •

SPECIES	MONTH OBSERVED												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Northern Shrike	*	*	*	*								*	*
Loggerhead Shrike				*									
European Starling	*	*	*	*	*							*	*
Bell's Vireo						*	*	*	*	*			
Warbling Vireo						*							
Orange-crowned Warbler					*			*	*	*			
Nashville Warbler									*	*			
Northern Parula									*	*			
Yellow Warbler					*			*	*				
Yellow-rumped Warbler					*					*			
Common Yellowthroat									*	*			
Wilson's Warbler									*	*			
Blue Grosbeak						*	*	*	*	*			
Rufous-sided Towhee				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
American Tree Sparrow	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	*	*
Chipping Sparrow					*			*	*	*			
Clay-colored Sparrow					*								
Field Sparrow				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lark Sparrow					*	*	*	*	*	*			
Savannah Sparrow							*	*	*	*			

MONTH OBSERVED

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Grasshopper Sparrow					• •	•						
Song Sparrow									• •	• •		
Lincoln's Sparrow									• •	•		
White-throated Sparrow									•	• •		
White-crowned Sparrow				•	•					•		
Harris Sparrow	• •	• •	• •	• •	•					• •	• •	•
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	• •	• •	• •	• •					•	• •	• •	• •
Red-winged Blackbird			• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •			•	
Western Meadowlark			•	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	•		
Yellow-headed Blackbird								•	•			
Rusty Blackbird											•	
Common Grackle			•	• •	• •	• •	• •			•		
Brown-headed Cowbird				•	• •	• •	• •					
Orchard Oriole					•	• •	• •	•				
Northern Oriole (Baltimore)					• •	• •	•	•	•			
Purple Finch	•	•									• •	•
Common Redpoll	•	•	•									•
Pine Siskin	• •	• •	• •	• •		•			•	•	• •	• •
American Goldfinch	• •	• •	• •	•	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •
House Sparrow		•	• •				•					

GENERAL NOTES

WHITE-FACED IBIS NESTING IN DAY COUNTY. On 15 June 1987, Lana Lunde, Scott Glup, Scott Mikkelsen, and I surveyed a mixed nesting colony of wading birds on Breske Slough, Day Co., SD. The slough is located near the SW corner of North Waubay Lake, north of Hedtkes Pass in Racine Township. Two canoes were used to reach the colony with members of the survey team wading to locate and identify nests.

As estimated 250+ adult Cattle Egrets were observed in the colony. The young were well-feathered and out of the nest. An accurate count was therefore difficult. Over 400 adult Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen. All stages of nesting were noted, with eggs, downy, and well-feathered young present. Snowy Egrets flew overhead and we presumed them to be nesting, although no nests were located. Nests of Forster's Terns and Franklin's Gulls were observed that contained eggs and downy young. Nine White-faced Ibis nests, containing from 1 to 5 eggs, were located. This record is the first confirmed nesting of the species in Day Co. Previously all other species have been observed nesting at Rush Lake, 5 mi SE of North Waubay Lake. No egrets or herons were seen nesting on Rush Lake in 1987, possibly due to high water killing most vegetation. White-faced Ibis have been confirmed breeding in Brown, Codington, and Kingsbury counties in earlier years. *Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.*

TRUMPETER SWANS NESTING NEAR SCENIC, SOUTH DAKOTA. In early June 1987, while fishing on a dam 8 miles NE of Scenic, I heard a swan calling and saw it flying. I walked to a small dam where I saw the swan disappear. The water was clear and surrounded by reeds and cattails. I did not look farther, surmising a nesting pair might be present.

On 24 June, I contacted Lenard Yarger to go with me for another swan search. We arrived about 7:30 am. We walked from the road to the small dam. We saw two swans, one standing in the reeds and cattails and the other swimming. We walked around the dam and found a large muskrat house. Because of wet and muddy conditions, we could not approach closer than 75 feet. We took some pictures and left.

We returned on 15 July. We walked to within 10 feet of the nesting site. The site was six feet across and about two feet above the water and was surrounded by reeds and cattails. We found the swans on a large dam, 1/4 mile north. We photographed the swan pair with a single cygnet between them as they swam on the water.

On 9 August 1988, the swans were found on a large dam about two miles south of the 1987 nesting site. The pair had no young with them. The water in the 1987 site was probably too low, as the water did not surround the muskrat house. This site was not used. The birds may have found another area and had a hatching failure. Predators have been found in this area (e.g., rattlesnakes, Bull Snakes, and garter snakes). *H. C. Behrens, Box 1055, Rapid City 57709 and L. B. Yarger, 2421 Central, Rapid City 57702.*

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER NESTING. The nesting activity that occurred in the 1987 spring followed an invasion of unprecedented proportions. By the end of August 1986, you could not spend 30 minutes in any location in the southern Black Hills without hearing or seeing up to ten nutcrackers.

As the fall progressed, the birds were less conspicuous, but birders had numerous observations throughout the fall and winter.

My anticipation of finding nests increased as the spring approached. Several locations were checked in March but with no success. A chance observation on 7 April led to the discovery of the first nest. It was 0.25 mi east of Pass Creek Road in Custer Co., and was located about 20 feet up and about 6 feet out from the trunk on a large horizontal limb in a 12 inch diameter Ponderosa Pine.

Duane Weber photographed this nest and one of the fledglings on 9 April. He thought the nest was made of woven grass and forb stems and was about 12 inches in diameter. The two young birds were still at the nest but not in it when he was there. Twice during the 30 minutes that Duane was at the site, an adult bird called loudly and the young answered. Then the adult came closer and called softly. But when the adult discovered Duane, the bird departed.

I searched the area for other nests, but found none, although at least 30 nutcrackers busily foraged in the vicinity. However, on 16 April, while locating roads for a proposed timber sale, I found 2 more active Clark's Nutcracker nests southeast of Pringle. These nests were 15 miles east of the first nest.

Each of these nests contained two nestlings in an advanced stage of development. Two adults were in the immediate vicinity of each nest, and feeding was observed at both. Ten adult nutcrackers were seen in this area on 16 April. I believe these three nests represent the first nesting records ever reported for South Dakota. *Richard Peterson, HC 46, Box 49, Oelrichs 57763.*

A DOVEKIE IN SOUTH DAKOTA? Laura Ingalls Wilder authored a series of autobiographical works that seem to be an accurate reporting of her times. In *The Long Winter* (Harper Trophy Book, 1971. Harper and Row, New York), Laura's father finds a strange bird after an October 1880 blizzard (cf. Chapter 5, pages 51-52 and Chapter 6, pages 54-55).

The bird was described as being small, fitting in the hollow of the father's mitten. The bird was full-grown, stood straight up, and looked "exactly like" a picture the Ingalls had of a Great Auk, having a white breast, black back, black wings, short legs placed far back, and large webbed feet. The bird had black eyes. The Ingalls eventually released the bird on a lake so that the bird could run to get airborne.

The incident occurred near present day DeSmet, Kingsbury Co., South Dakota. The blizzard was a three-day event, the little bird being found on the morning of the fourth day, or the first day after the blizzard. Bob Karolevitz's *History of Yankton* states that Yankton, perhaps 90 miles south of DeSmet, had a 24-hour blizzard on 15 October 1880. Hence, Pa Ingalls found the bird between 16 and 18 October 1880.

The upright stance, rear leg placement, webbed feet, and habit of running on the water surface for takeoff, would indicate a diving bird. Its small size precludes loons and grebes, so that Laura's identification of Alcidae seems correct.

Among small alcids, only the Ancient Murrelet and Dovekie are noted in John Terres, *Encyclopedia of North American Birds*, as having inland records, both species having been observed as nearby as Minnesota. How-

ever, the Ancient Murrelet has white underwings, a gray back, and a pale bill, so that the description that Laura gives much more closely fits the Dovekie.

Objections to the Dovekie will include its having white streaks on its back or scapulars in winter plumage, which Laura does not mention on her bird, and its having a small, stubby bill, whereas the Great Auk it supposedly looks "exactly like" had a long, thick bill. Nevertheless, I think the evidence favors the Dovekie. *Steve Van Sickle, 305 East 16th Street, Yankton 57078.*

SKADSEN 1987 BANDING REPORT. This report will cover birds banded under permit No. 22127 from November 1986 through December 1987. I banded 2112 individuals of 40 species. Except for Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, which were banded at the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, all birds were banded where I reside, at the Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area, Day Co., SD. A Tree Swallow banded (870-01249) as a nestling at Enemy Swim Lake, Day Co., by Nelda Holden, was recaptured on 13 June 1987 on the refuge.

Mourning Dove	1	Common Yellowthroat	1
Downy Woodpecker	20	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Hairy Woodpecker	6	American Tree Sparrow	17
Northern Flicker	1	Chipping Sparrow	1
Eastern Kingbird	2	Song Sparrow	13
Tree Swallow	412	Lincoln's Sparrow	4
Blue Jay	3	Swamp Sparrow	1
Black-capped Chickadee	51	White-throated Sparrow	38
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	White-crowned Sparrow	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	Harris' Sparrow	45
House Wren	5	Dark-eyed Junco	251
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Red-winged Blackbird	6
Eastern Bluebird	89	Common Grackle	112
American Robin	65	Brown-headed Cowbird	4
Gray Catbird	9	Orchard Oriole	3
Brown Thrasher	2	Purple Finch	109
Cedar Waxwing	16	Red Crossbill	11
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	Common Redpoll	733
Yellow Warbler	3	Pine Siskin	19
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	American Goldfinch	36

Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville 57239.

BOOK REVIEWS

BEYOND BIRDING: FIELD PROJECTS FOR INQUISITIVE BIRDERS by Thomas C. Grubb. The Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove CA: 1986. \$9.95, softbound. 195 pp.

This book was given to me by my professor for use in an ecology project. Not only did it aid me with my project, but I realized that the book would be a valuable resource for my future in teaching high school. Amateur birders and college ornithology or ecology students can also benefit.

The first two chapters of the book take an analytical view of birding observations. Special measurements are defined and examples are given on how they may be put to use. These chapters will develop the birder's skills in scientific thinking and forming hypotheses. Coordinated with these chapters are the valuable appendices at the book's end. The uses of the Chi square, median, and correlation tests are clearly explained, making it possible for collected data to be interpreted by the user.

The bulk of the book gives questions for the birder to answer. Each chapter deals with some aspect of habitat, cohabitation, or special behavior. Most of the questions are a bit out of the ordinary, but yet are simple enough to deal with. The reader has a chance to answer the chapter's question with an educated hypothesis and then test the hypothesis with the data he or she collects.

I highly recommend the book for many reasons. The average birder has a chance to perform some of his or her own experiments at home, since the book is very easy to use. The book can also be used as a reference, for educational purposes, or just to satisfy curiosity. *Lynn Locken, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.*

THE 1988 BREEDING SEASON

by Dennis Skadsen
Box 113, Grenville SD 57239

Two words describe the weather for the period, hot and dry! Some of the drought's effects on the region's birds will be described briefly in this report. An apparent easterly shift was noted for several species that commonly nest in the central and western parts of the state. Ferruginous Hawks nested for the first time in Day Co. The latter record represents a range extension close to 50 miles. A pair of Burrowing Owls nested in Minnehaha Co. for the first time in several years. Lark Buntings were numerous in Brown Co. and also were observed in Deuel, Lincoln, Minnehaha and Roberts Co. The hot weather was disastrous for second broods of bluebirds at Waubay NWR. Females apparently abandoned nests when the heat inside the boxes became intolerable. Both young and eggs were found dead and dehydrated in these nests. The effects of the drought, combined with the increasing loss of wetlands, has led to a shortened waterfowl season and to stricter bag limits. Nearly all small wetlands and sloughs were dry by the end of July in the prairie pothole region. An earlier than usual shorebird migration was reported, with large numbers of birds concentrated on what habitat remained. Several early migrating warblers were also observed in the last week of July. Unexpected was the Snowy Owl observed in Meade Co. in July and, on the same date, a Barred Owl in Minnehaha Co.

Abbreviations used in this report: **NHSP** = Newton Hills State Park; **PLSRA** = Pickerel Lake State Park; **SLNWR** = Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge; **WNWR** = Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

Observers cited were:

Gil Blankespoor (GWB)

Robert Kieckhefer (RK)

Dan Brady (DB)
 Robert L. Brashears (RLB)
 Robert Buckman (RB)
 Ken Graupmann (KG)
 Caroyln Griffiths (CG)
 Dave Griffiths (DG)
 Willis Hall (WH)
 Bruce K. Harris (BKH)
 J. Dave Hilley (DJH)
 Augie Hoeger (AH)
 Jan Kieckhefer (JK)
 Common Loon--15 July, WNWR, nonbreeding plumage (DRS).
 Clark's Grebe--12 July, Butte Co., Belle Fourche Reservoir (RAP).
 American White Pelican--12 June, Day Co., Bitter Lake, 1146 nests with eggs and young (DRS et al.).
 Great Egret--14 July, Kingsbury Co., Lake Preston, 70+ nests in colony (BKH).
 White-faced Ibis--2 June, SLNWR, pair (SY).
MUTE SWAN--14 July, Lake Co., appeared to be a wild bird (RB, BKH et al.)
 Snow Goose--25 June, Deuel Co., Salt Lake, pair (BKH).
 Lesser Scaup--12 June, Day Co., Bitter Lake, nest with eggs, **earliest date reported** (DRS et al.).
 Cooper's Hawk--17 July, PLSRA, immature (DRS).
 Northern Goshawk--24 June, Meade Co., nest with eggs predated (EM).
 Ferruginous Hawk--30 April, **ROBERTS CO.**, adult on nest, pair observed copulating (DRS, BKH, ECM). 23 June, Day Co., nest with young (DB).
 Semipalmated Plover--14 June, Perkins Co., **LATEST SPRING DATE**; 21 July, Perkins Co. (DG, CG).
 Piping Plover--12 June, Day Co., Bitter Lake (DRS).
 American Avocet--12 June, Day Co., Bitter Lake, 19 nests with eggs (DRS et al.).
 Spotted Sandpiper--12 June, Day Co., Bitter Lake, adult with downy young (DRS et al.).
 Long-billed Curlew--29 June, Pennington Co., Badlands NP, **52** in prairie dog town (MMM).
 Marbled Godwit--29 June, Pennington Co. (MMM).
 Ruddy Turnstone--26 July, Hamlin Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (BKH).
 Sanderling--29 July, **Butte Co.**, Belle Fourche Reservoir (BKH).
 Baird's Sandpiper--10 July, Perkins Co., **8, TIES EARLIEST EVER** (DG, CG).
 Pectoral Sandpiper--10 July, Perkins Co., very early (DG, CG).
 Dunlin--22 July, Deuel Co., **9, EARLIEST EVER** (BKH).
 American Woodcock--5 May, Minnehaha Co., Beaver Creek, adult with 2 chicks (GWB). 6 May, Roberts Co., Sica Hollow, distraction display by adult, first confirmed nesting for this county (DJO). 13-15, 27 June, Yankton Co. (WH). 7 July, PLSRA (DRS).
 Red-necked Phalarope--21 July, Deuel Co., early (BKH).
 Ring-billed Gull--12 June, Day Co., Bitter Lake, 318 nests with eggs, young (DRS et al.).
 California Gull--12 June, Day Co., Bitter Lake, nest with eggs (DRS et al.).
 Caspian Tern--26 July, Hamlin Co. (BKH).
 Least Tern--14 June, Perkins Co., Shadehill Reservoir (DG, CG).
 Mourning Dove--15 July, SLNWR, albino (JDH).
 Common Barn-Owl--26 July, Jackson Co., pair observed at nest cavity (KG, BKH).
 Snowy Owl--2 July, Meade Co., **LATEST EVER REPORTED** (EM, NRW).
 Burrowing Owl--18 June, Lincoln Co., adult, 23 July, same location, pair with 3 fledglings (GWB).
 Barred Owl--2 July, Minnehaha Co. (AH).

Michael M. Melius (MMM)
 Ernest Miller (EM)
 Everett C. Montgomery (ECM)
 David J. Ode (DJO)
 Marjorie J. Parker (MJP)
 Richard A. Peterson (RAP)
 George Prisbe (DGP)
 Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS)
 Nathaniel R. Whitney (NRW)
 Steve Young (SY)

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- Whip-poor-will--18 June, Lincoln Co., NHSP, calling, still not a confirmed breeding species in SD (BKH).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird--13, 27 June, Roberts Co., female observed on nest on later date (BKH). 11, 17 July, Day Co., (DRS). 29 July, Grant Co. (DGP).
- Rufous Hummingbird--16 July, Custer Co., female (MJP).
- Red-naped Sapsucker--16 June, Custer State Park, 2 breeding pair (NRW).
- Pileated Woodpecker--18 July, Roberts Co., male (BKH).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee--28 July, Yankton Co., feeding young in nest, late (WH).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**--26 June, Todd Co., record unexamined by Rare Birds Committee (RLB).
- Clark's Nutcracker--6 June, Pennington Co. (RAP).
- Black-capped Chickadee--28 April, WNWR, constructing nest in bluebird box (DRS). 7 May, Brookings Co., young fledged from wren box, early (RK, JK).
- Northern Mockingbird--22 June, Meade Co., pair with 2 young (EM, RAP, NRW). 10 July, Perkins Co., singing (DG, CG). 27 July, Bennett Co. (BKH).
- Sprague's Pipit--23 June, Perkins Co., singing (DG, CG). 31 July, McPherson Co., Ordway Prairie, singing (BKH).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER**--26 June to 20 July, Custer Co., male, considered accidental in West (RAP).
- Connecticut Warbler--30 July, Grant Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (DGP).
- Mourning Warbler--30 July, Grant Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (DGP).
- Canada Warbler--28 July, Custer Co., **EARLIEST EVER** (BKH, RAP).
- Scarlet Tanager--7 June, Yankton Co., pair (WH). June to 4 July, Roberts Co., singing male (BKH).
- Blue Grosbeak--18 June, Lincoln Co. (BKH).
- Lark Bunting--15 June, Minnehaha Co.; 18 June, Lincoln Co. (GWB).
- Swamp Sparrow--7 July, Faulk Co., pair (MMM).
- Brewer's Blackbird--9 July, Roberts Co., adults carrying food (BKH).