

SOUTH DAKOTA  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH  
BIRD



DAKOTA  
NOTES

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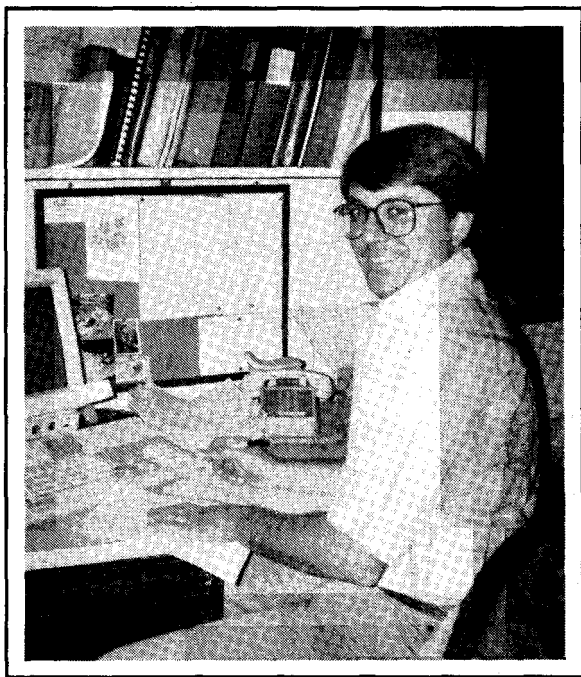
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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A victim of the latest recession, I was laid off from my job last March. This gave me the opportunity to work at the Glacial Lakes Outdoor School (GLOS), as a member of its teaching staff. The school, a division of Lutheran's Outdoors in South Dakota, uses facilities of the Ne-So-Dak Bible Camp, located on Enemy Swim Lake near Waubay. GLOS offers a unique, nonreligious environmental education program to eastern South Dakota public and private schools, mainly at the 6th grade level. Students eat and sleep at Ne-



So-Dak in the dorm-like lodge during the 2 1/2 day, 2 night experience. Classes are held at the nearby Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, giving students an unusual chance to interact with the environment and classmates. The outdoor setting provides an opportunity that cannot be duplicated in a normal classroom.

The experience, combining my knowledge of the outdoors with the existing GLOS curriculum, was exciting and fulfilling. Some camp memories include the excited Bird Study class describing their observation of a Scarlet Tanager, a huddled and apprehensive night hike group listening for the first time to the strange nocturnal sounds, which included several "peenting" American Woodcocks, the friendly competition among the students to see who could collect the most wood ticks from their persons, or the skepticism when invited by the camp cook to dine at the "Road Kill Cafe." I wish such programs had existed when I was young. I truly believe environmental education is essential to the well being of our planet. By teaching these students their place in the earth's ecosystem, they will become better stewards of the planet. Unfortunately, not all schools can afford to send students to these camps. Can SDOU help? I believe we can.

During my term as president, I would like to see the formation of an Environmental Education Steering Committee. This committee would be charged with developing curriculum at elementary, secondary, college, and post adult levels. This curriculum could include producing videos portraying the state's birds, board games, children's bird books, or traveling displays for the state's many museums and nature centers. SDOU might also develop a monetary fund to help schools participate and at-

tend environmental camps and programs. Please send me your thoughts and comments before next spring's meeting in Sturgis.

I have returned to my job and, next spring, while working inside, analyzing the latest methods to manufacture pillows or bedspreads, my heart will be with those students at GLOS, breathing the new spring air, learning how to live with the earth. In the meantime, I'm hoping for a finch winter. Good Birding! Dennis Skadsen, Box 113, Grenville SD 57239.

## IN MEMORIAM — CHARLES H. ROGGE

by L. M. Baylor  
Rapid City SD 57702

Charles H. Rogge, a charter member of the SDOU, died at Sioux Falls on 8 October 1991. He is survived by his wife, Gladyce, their daughter, Janet Dugle, a sister and a brother.

Born at Auburn, NE, 15 May 1901, Charles graduated from Auburn High School (1919) and Nebraska Wesleyan University (1924). In 1936, he earned his master's degree from the University of South Dakota and later pursued further graduate studies at the universities of Nebraska and Colorado. For 21 years, he served as a teacher, athletic coach, high school principal or superintendent of schools at Scotia, NE, DeSmet, Wessington Springs, Agar, Dupree, and Egan SD. During World War II, Charles served two years as a field director for the American Red Cross with combat troops in New Caledonia, New Hebrides, and New Guinea. His last Red Cross assignment was at the Sioux Falls air base. For 19 years, Charles was the principal at Hawthorne Elementary School, Sioux Falls. He retired in 1966. In addition to his active involvement with the Congregational Church, Masonic organizations, and the SD Elementary Principals Association (its first president), Charles served several years as a director of the SDOU and he was a charter member and past president of the Sioux Falls Audubon Society.

Charles and Gladyce Rogge functioned as a distinctive team, pursuing ornithological studies in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and parts of South America. In addition to extensive field observations, they concentrated on bird banding at their Sioux Falls residence and other locations, especially Oakwood Lakes State Park and Farm Island. Charles also was a skillful photographer and artist. Visits to the Rogge homes at Sioux Falls and Mission, TX, rewarded one with displays of his photographs, sketches, and paintings of birds.

Between 1950 and 1990, the Rogges frequently contributed articles and general notes to *Bird Notes*. Most of the items stemmed from the team's banding endeavors, with 21 contributions between 1958 and 1984 coauthored by Charles and Gladyce. Charles was the only credited author for an article on the Snowy Owl (1950, 2:4-5, 7) and a note on the White-faced Ibis (1963, 15:61). In addition, Gladyce was the author for an article about the team's banding at Farm Island from 1964 through 1987 (June 1990, 42:28-29), accounting for 1,324 individuals of 73 species banded by Charles and Gladyce. The editor appropriately published this article in the *Bird Notes* issue for which the cover page features a picture of five

SDOU charter members, including Charles, at SDOU's 40th anniversary meeting. During their entire banding career, Charles and Gladys banded over 13,000 birds.

Eulogists at the memorial service praised Charles as a kind, gentle, caring person. In our era espousing the need for a kinder, gentler society, they very well could have suggested Charles Rogges as a model for our individual contributions to a better worldwide community. We in the SDOU remember Charles as a man of quiet dignity. He was an exceptionally good listener, but when he spoke, we became aware of his valuable perceptions—not only in ornithology but also in human relations. His presence enriched the SDOU and our personal lives.

## **RECORDS OF RARE AND UNCOMMON BIRDS FROM THE EARLY YEARS OF THE WAUBAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 1936 - 1960**

by Dennis Skadsen  
RR Box 113, Grenville, SD 57239

**Introduction**—While conducting research on the natural history of northeastern South Dakota, I found several interesting notes about rare and uncommon birds from the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge. These observations were noted in refuge narratives written monthly and quarterly by refuge managers and sent to the Chief of Biological Surveys in Washington, DC. Many of these observations were made before the formation of the SDOU and, to the best of my knowledge, never before published in any ornithological journal.

**A Brief History of the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge** — On 10 December 1935, by virtue of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the Waubay Bluebill Refuge, as it was originally titled, was established by Executive Order No. 7245. The first manager, Watson E. Beed, was assigned to the refuge on 4 September 1936. In 1937 he compiled the first refuge bird list, which contained 163 entries. Watson Beed was transferred to Sand Lake in May 1939 and, on 1 May, Donald R. Ambrosen arrived, the second of 11 refuge managers to date. Many of the lakes and ponds within the refuge boundaries were dry in 1936, after several years of severe drought. The heavy snows of the 1936/37 winter (the average depth in January 1937 was reported to be 48 inches) provided heavy spring runoff that was rerouted through man-made channels and dikes constructed by the WPA (Works Progress Administration), refilling refuge lakes. Prior to becoming a wildlife refuge, the area was home to several cultures of Native Americans, and the first traders and homesteaders of Day County. The refuge is located in the northeast corner of the county, approximately 5 miles north of Waubay, South Dakota. Refuge habitat includes 1,737 acres of native grassland, 665 acres of native hardwood timber, 39 acres of restored native grassland, 194 acres of introduced grasses, and 28 acres of dense nesting cover. A visitor center, opened in 1985, has several displays depicting the history and wildlife of the refuge. The word "Waubay" from the Sioux Indian language means a

"nesting place for birds." The famous wildlife artist Frances Lee Jaques, standing on the shore of Spring Lake with Watson Beed in 1938, called Waubay "the perfect refuge."

Species observations:

**American Black Duck**—In 1937, Watson Beed reported this species as "not uncommon on the refuge." On 1 June 1937, Beed and Ury Dahling, Day Co. game warden, reported observing 6 Black Ducks. In the August to October 1938 narrative, Watson Beed reports banding 9 Black Ducks. A copy of the Bird Banding Record sent to the US Dept. of Agriculture shows the first of these banded on 22 August and the last banded on 7 November 1938. Beed wrote, "Several of these Black Ducks banded were immature young which gives us positive evidence that the Black Duck nests on the refuge." In the August to October 1939 narrative, the second refuge manager, Donald R. Ambrosen, reported banding 9 Black Ducks. The first of these were banded on 23 August and the last on 17 September 1939. In the May to July 1940 narrative, Ambrosen reported one brood of Black Ducks on Spring Lake. Banding records for 1942 show 24 Black Ducks banded from 24 August to 10 October. Frederic T. Staunton, the third refuge manager, reported a pair of Black Ducks wintering on open water in 1945. On 14 April 1945 he observed 60 Black Ducks on the refuge. In the January to April 1947 narrative, Staunton reported 3 Black Ducks on 17 April and a peak of 12 on 27 April. In the May to August 1954 narrative, refuge manager Carl E. Pospichal reported two broods of Black Ducks containing 3 and 7 young each. He considered the species to be a rare nester on the refuge. Today the species is considered a possible rare breeder in eastern South Dakota (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Common Goldeneye**—Watson Beed reported two pairs of Common Goldeneye nesting in boxes along refuge lakes during May 1937. Beed and Ury Dahling observed the goldeneye nests on 1 June. On 28 May 1937, Beed took photographs of a goldeneye sitting on a nest box. A search of the refuge photo files yielded no such negatives.

In the May 1938 narrative, Watson Beed reported that three broods of goldeneyes were produced on the refuge in 1937 and, as of 31 May 1938, five broods had hatched and two clutches of eggs remained unhatched in nest boxes. On a field trip through the refuge on 30 May 1938 with Philip A. DuMont of Sand Lake, they observed a brood of six goldeneyes with an adult female. A total of seven goldeneye broods were observed on the refuge during June 1938. Beed reported that the average size goldeneye brood was seven. Twenty-one log nesting boxes were constructed during the winter of 1937-38 and placed in trees. Beed commented that the goldeneye nest early and, that by 1 July, young are well grown. In the August to October 1938 narrative, Beed wrote, "Due to the fact that the goldeneye frequents deep water and rarely comes on shore, the broods are on this refuge almost entirely immune to predation. One brood of nine followed from the egg to the time they left this refuge did not have a single casualty."

In the May to July 1939 narrative, Donald Ambrosen reported only one pair of goldeneyes using the nest boxes. A number of these duck boxes were relocated to more suitable locations. In the Annual Report July 1,

Table 1. Common Goldeneye Brood Observations at the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

1937	3
1938	7
1939	1
1940	2
1941	2
1942	0
1943	0
1944	0
1945	4
1946	2

1947	1
1948	3
1949	2
1950	1
1951	1
1952	4
1953	2
1954	1
1955	1
1956	1

1938 to June 30, 1939, Ambrosen reported that out of 23 nesting boxes only one was used by goldeneyes in 1939. Fifty more nest boxes were constructed and placed along Spring and Hillebrand lakes. In 1940 Ambrosen wrote, "Two American Goldeneyes used two nesting boxes near Hillebrand Lake this summer. Only one box was used last year and the same box was used again this year. The other box used was about 100 feet away from the one used last year."

In the May to July 1941 narrative, Ambrosen wrote, "This year two duck nesting boxes were used by goldeneyes. This is the same number that was used last year. It is rather hard to tell whether or not these birds are using these boxes as they are reluctant to leave the nest if something hits the outside. In one instance the outside of the box was hit a couple of times and no bird appeared although feathers around the hole indicated that something was using the box. It was not until I climbed the tree to the box that the bird flushed off of eight eggs."

In the May to August 1945 narrative, Frederic T. Staunton wrote, "For the first time in three years golden-eye nests have been found on the refuge. Two of the golden-eye nests were found in hollow trees and a third was located in one of the nesting boxes. One brood was seen at a location some distance from the other nesting sites, and it is believed to be a separate family group not included with the three broods previously mentioned." Staunton reported broods of goldeneye from 1946 through 1950 (see Table 1).

Refuge Manager Lee W. Arnold wrote in the May to August 1951 narrative, "An American Goldeneye nest with 10 eggs was found during May in one of the boxes near the west shore of Hillebrand Lake. The only brood observed on the refuge was in Phragmites Pond, about one quarter mile south of Hillebrand Lake. It was first observed on June 14 as downy young and was periodically seen on the same pothole until the seven young reached flying age." Again in the 1952 report, he wrote, "American Goldeneye showed a definite increase in nesting over that of last year and produced 4 broods. This increase is attributed to the fact that the nest boxes located around Hillebrand Lake were cleaned out and the broken ones repaired."

Lloyd H. Mangus, Refuge Manager, reported two broods of goldeneyes observed during the 1953 breeding season. In 1954, Carl E. Pospichal re-

ported, "The drop in goldeneyes noted in 1953 continued and only one pair remained on Hillebrand Lake, bringing off a brood of 8 in one of the nesting boxes." In the May to August 1955 report, Pospichal wrote, "Only one pair of goldeneyes stayed, as has been the case for several years. This pair again nested in a box on Hillebrand Lake and brought off a brood of 12."

The last narrative entry reporting this species was found in the May to August 1956 narrative by manager Raymond L. St. Ores who wrote, "An estimated 8 goldeneyes were produced here this spring compared with 12 a year ago. Again this year, goldeneyes preferred to use Hillebrands Lake."

Today, the Common Goldeneye is considered an uncommon-to-common migrant in eastern SD and does not nest at Waubay (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Oldsquaw**—In April 1937, Beed reported a pair of Oldsquaw on 16 April. He observed the same pair again on 19 April at a distance of 100 feet. Three male Oldsquaws were observed on 8 April 1939 by Beed. The species is considered a very rare spring migrant in eastern South Dakota (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Turkey Vulture**—Frederic Staunton reported 3 vultures sitting on the ice of Waubay Lake on 10 November 1950. The Turkey Vulture is considered a rare migrant east of the Missouri River and this record represents a late date for the species (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Cooper's Hawk**—A nest of this species containing eggs was reported in the May 1937 narrative, but both nest and adults were destroyed. A second nest, described in the July 1937 narrative, contained 3 nestlings. The young and adult female of this nest were also killed by refuge staff. It was evidently a common practice on the refuge to kill Cooper's Hawks, because they preyed on ducks and upland game. This is the only avian predator, other than the American Crow, which was reported killed by refuge personnel to prevent predation. The Cooper's Hawk is considered a rare summer resident in the state (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Piping Plover**—A pair and nest with eggs were observed on South Waubay Lake on 14 June 1960. A photograph of the nest was included in the May to August 1960 narrative by John C. Carlson. The species is considered a rare nester in Day County (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Red Knot**—In September 1937, Beed reported seven knots observed and carefully identified during the month. The species is considered a casual migrant in the state (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Wilson's Phalarope**—In the August to October 1938 narrative, Beed noted that several thousand Wilson's Phalaropes were observed on Hillebrand Lake on 23 August 1938.

**California Gull**—Donald R. Ambrosen reported, in the May to July 1940 narrative, observations of this species at a Ring-billed Gull nesting



colony on South Waubay Lake. He suspected that these birds were nesting among Ring-billed Gulls. This is the earliest known observation for the species. In recent years several colonies have nested in northeastern South Dakota.

**Long-eared Owl**—Mentioned in the very first refuge narrative, dated September 1936, this species was thought by Beed to be common in the refuge woods. On 3 November 1936, Beed observed one Long-eared Owl. He also reported this owl during September and December 1937. In the Annual Report July 1, 1937 to June 30, 1938, Long-eared Owls were reported nesting in duck nest boxes placed in refuge trees. These birds were also reported as using nest boxes by Ambrosen in 1939. Long-eared Owls are considered rare-to-uncommon permanent residents in the state (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—Beed, found a dead Saw-whet Owl along a refuge road on 31 March 1939. Staunton observed one Saw-whet Owl on 20 April 1947. The species is considered a possible regular but overlooked migrant in eastern South Dakota (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Black-billed Magpie**—Beed observed this species on 10 March 1938. 10 to 12 magpies were observed by Staunton on 9 November 1949. Magpies are considered rare visitors to northeastern South Dakota (SDOU. 1991. *The Birds of South Dakota*. 2nd Ed.).

**Discussion**—Three species, the American Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Long-eared Owl, are no longer known to breed on the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge. The American Black Duck has been reported on only eight occasions in northeastern South Dakota, since two broods were observed by Carl Pospichal in 1954. All but one of these observations were in Day County with no more than two birds reported per sighting. The Long-eared Owl has been found nesting twice in the adjacent counties of Marshall and Roberts. Only five observations in northeastern South Dakota have been reported in the literature since Watson Beed first reported the species' nesting on the refuge in 1938. Youngworth (1935) listed the Long-eared Owl "as a not uncommon owl" in northeastern SD. Beed and Ambrosen reported Long-eared Owls using refuge duck nest boxes for nesting. The species is noted as occasionally using tree cavities for nesting (Harrison 1979).

Unusual are the reports of Common Goldeneyes using these same nest boxes. The normal breeding range of this species lies northeast of the refuge in Northcentral Minnesota. In Janssen (1987) the southern edge of the goldeneyes' breeding range is the northern border of Ottertail County, approximately 125 miles to the northeast of Waubay. It is hard to validate these observations when so little information outside of refuge files exists on the species' breeding in Northeastern South Dakota. The only other reference to this species nesting in the area was found in Youngworth (1935). In his paper, Youngworth reported two pairs of goldeneyes on Spring Lake on 6 June 1935, and quotes Arthur Lundquist's observation of the species' breeding on Rush Lake in 1930. I consulted several major works on waterfowl distribution, such as Palmer (1976) and Bellrose (1976), but I found no information on the species' nesting in South

Dakota. Other cavity nesters that may have used these boxes, such as Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers, might have been mistaken for goldeneyes by careless observers. But these species were reported as being present on the refuge during years goldeneyes reportedly nested. In a letter to me dated 15 January, Mr. Ambrosen recalls Common Goldeneyes nesting in these boxes.

Some of the reports noted in this paper are quite detailed, as is the 1941 entry by Ambrosen, who described climbing up to the nest box and flushing the bird off the nest. Bird behavior described in refuge reports coincides with published observations of the species. Johnson (1967) reported that goldeneye broods feed farther away from emergent cover than those of other marsh and prairie species. Note Beed's October 1938 entry in which he makes a similar observation. Goldeneyes also exhibit a strong site tenacity. Johnson (1967) found that 64% of goldeneye hens returned during subsequent years to nest on the same lake and 50% returned to nest in the same box. Note Ambrosen's observations of goldeneyes using the same nest boxes in 1939 and 1940. Ambrosen also noted that in 1940 a second nest box was occupied by a pair 100 feet from the nest box occupied during 1939-40. It is also interesting to note that most nests were located in boxes placed along Hillebrand Lake. Possibly one or more pair began using these nesting boxes, and adults and young returned to the area to nest in subsequent years.

The drought may also have played a role in the species' nesting on the refuge although this may be hard to document. In 1937, except for Blue Dog, Enemy Swim, and Pickerel, lakes were either dry or reduced to small puddles (Fishbeck and Underhill 1937). This lack of habitat would have drastically reduced the food available to diving ducks and may have caused changes in local breeding and migration patterns. As mentioned earlier in this paper, construction work was undertaken to reroute available water sources to refuge lakes. Waubay lakes were some of the first in the area to refill. Ambrosen mentioned that even in 1939 there were few lakes with enough water for diving ducks to use. The placement of nest boxes along these refilled Waubay lakes may have attracted breeding goldeneyes to the refuge.

As shown in Table I, the last year goldeneyes were reported nesting was 1956. In a recent letter, Ambrosen suggested that the decline in nesting goldeneyes may have been due to nest boxes not being maintained. In many of the earlier reports, Eastern Screech-Owls and Gray and Fox Squirrels were reported to use these boxes. All of these species are known to nest in man-made or natural cavities. Squirrels would have placed enough debris in the nest boxes to make them unsuitable for ducks. It is interesting to note the Gray Squirrel is also extirpated from the refuge. A few are observed in extreme eastern Roberts County and a small population is reported to exist in Webster, SD; however, I have not confirmed the latter.

Possibly these three species were localized breeders on the refuge, much like the Red-necked Grebe is today, rarely found nesting beyond refuge boundaries and uncommon in most of the state. However more information is needed before making any definitive statement about the American Black Duck's, Common Goldeneye's, and Long-eared Owl's former status in northeastern South Dakota.

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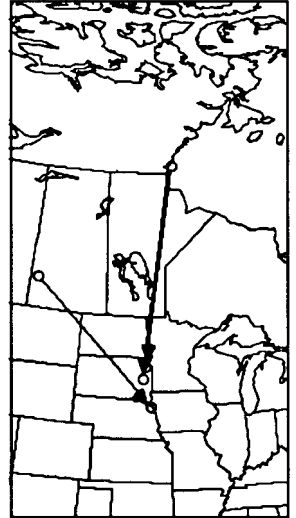
## GENERAL NOTES

**BANDING RECOVERIES OF SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS PART 7 -TUNDRA SWAN, BLACK BRANT, AND ROSS' GOOSE.** This series of articles continues with records of banded waterfowl recovered in South Dakota.

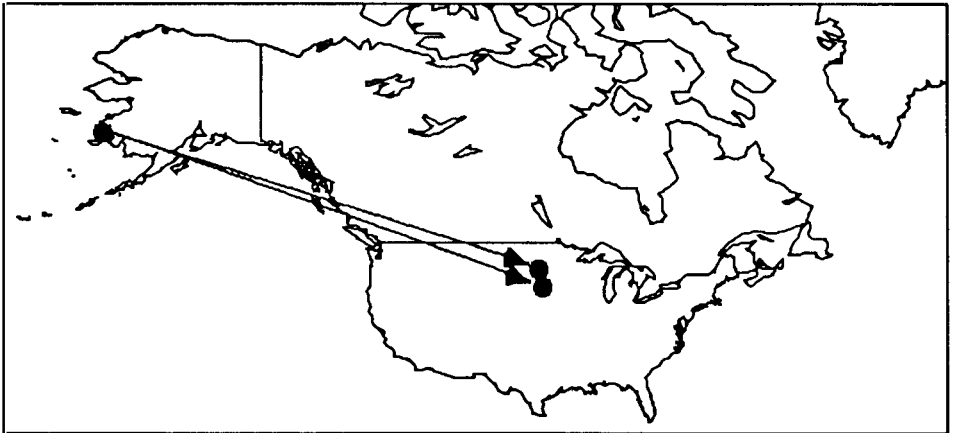
The Saskatchewan Ross' Goose was banded on 11 October 1967 and recovered in South Dakota on 18 November 1970. The northern birds were banded a year apart, on 1 August 1967 and 1968 and recovered, respectively, in South Dakota in October 1970 and 11 November 1979.

Brants are casual in South Dakota. One of these birds was the first record for the state, banded in Alaska on 21 July 1954 and recovered in South Dakota on 31 October 1956. Interestingly, a bird banded the next day (22 July 1954) at the same location in Alaska, was also recovered in Eastern South Dakota on 12 December 1958.

Only three Tundra Swan have been recovered in South Dakota or banded here and recovered outside the state. Two were banded in North Carolina. One banded on 20 February 1973 was recovered the same spring, on 1 April 1973. The other was banded on 6 February 1979 and was recovered on 4 December 1982. The third was banded in South Dakota on 25 January 1970 and recovered in Alberta on 5 October 1970.



**Map 64.** Banded Ross' Geese recovered in South Dakota



**Map 65.** Black Brant Banding Recoveries

These maps are new since publication of the revised edition of *The Birds of South Dakota*. If you would like these maps for your book, you are welcome to make copies of them. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.



**Map 66.** Tundra Swan banding recoveries

**BUFFLEHEAD NEST IN BROOKINGS COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA.** Buffleheads are common migrants in eastern South Dakota, however, they breed primarily in the forested regions of Canada and Alaska, particularly from Manitoba west. Populations occur farther south in the Canadian prairies, but these birds are believed to be nonbreeders. Yet some nesting occurs in these lower regions, where cottonwoods or aspen have suitable cavities. Records do exist for Buffleheads breeding in the Turtle Mountains and on the Lower Souris National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota (Bellrose, 1976. *Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*. Second ed. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg PA).

On 22 May 1991, a Bufflehead was found nesting at Oakwood Lakes State Park, in Northwestern Brookings Co. The hen nested in a tan plastic Ducks Unlimited/Bellrose Wood Duck box. The box was 5 meters high in a cottonwood tree. The hen was flushed off the nest; her size and white speculum identified her as a Bufflehead. Six eggs, which had been incubated about five days, were olive and oval, typical of Bufflehead eggs (Bellrose, 1976).

The nest was checked again on 16 June 1991. This time the hen did not flush. Identification was confirmed by her size and the white patch behind the eye. We visited the nest for a final check on 24 July 1991. All six eggs had hatched. We believe this record is the first for Buffleheads nesting in South Dakota. We also found a nonbreeding Bufflehead in a brown Ducks Unlimited Wood Duck box in Lake Co. on Quam GPA. The new edition of *The Birds of South Dakota* (SDOU 1991) lists four additional summer records for this species in the state. *Lisa Peskin and James E. Rorah, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Box 2206, South Dakota State University, Brookings SD 57007-1696.*

**VARIED THRUSH IN SIOUX FALLS.** The dark-colored bird in our backyard, on 23 November 1990, had too long a tail for a starling. Seeing only its back, I next thought it must be a lingering robin. As the bird turned, I began to see orange in the dark wings, then the brick-orange breast with a bold black stripe and orange eyebrows.

A quick check in our field guide identified our visitor as a Varied Thrush, a new bird for both of us. He stayed for nearly an hour and a half, allowing time for Gil Blankespoor to respond to our call and come for a look. The weather was mild, sunny, and calm, with temperatures in the mid-40's.

We next saw the bird on 26 November. He returned daily, generally several times a day, through 3 December. Activities included walking and pecking on the ground beneath a sunflower seed feeder, pecking around the base of our maple tree below the suet feeder, sitting in the lilac bushes and the wahoo bush, and scratching among the fallen leaves. He was intimidated by squirrels but not by the other birds that frequented the feeding area. After 3 December, we saw no more of our colorful visitor. *Ann and Durand Young, 1905 South 6th Ave., Sioux Falls SD 57105.*

## BOOK REVIEWS

**GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MADAGASCAR** by Olivier Langrand. 1990. Yale University Press, New Haven. 364 pp. Cloth \$50.00.

This impressive volume is the first field guide for Madagascar's unique birds. The book describes and illustrates all native species found on Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world. The first part of this guide describes the island's habitats. It also includes an in depth, but readable, section on the island's avifauna, with several graphs, charts, and checklists to convey these data. The section *Recommended Sites for Observing the Avifauna of Madagascar* provides the reader with information on 17 sites, including a description of each location's habitats, accessibility, and directions from nearby villages. Accommodations and observation facilities and authorization needed from government agencies for such visits are also listed. These sites and all species to be found are contained in checklist form, making the guide all the more valuable to birders. The island's 256 bird species are adequately described in accounts providing information on the birds' physical description, behavior, voice, habitat preference, diet, data on nesting, distribution, and current population status. Forty watercolor plates illustrate all but the introduced species. Distributions of all species are mapped in a separate section of the book. A taxonomic listing of all species' scientific, English, and French names is also provided.

Readers can learn several interesting facts about the island's natural history. Madagascar was once home to some of the world's largest land-birds, the flightless rails. These rails became extinct in the 17th century, due to changes in the island's habitat and hunting pressure from humans. Three other bird species are currently thought to be extinct, and another five species are threatened with extinction. This situation is not surprising, since 53% of the island's birds are endemic, forest dwellers.

As in other parts of the world, this island's native forests are being destroyed by slash and burn agriculture, with only 20% of this native forest remaining intact. Of this remaining forest, only about 2% is protected in national parks and reserves. The book thus conveys a strong message for preservation of these forests and their endemic birds. The book will be indispensable to birders travelling to Madagascar and can be highly recommended to those who enjoy collecting field guides and studying the unique and diverse birds of this planet. *Dennis Skadsen, RR Box 113, Grenville, SD 57239.*

**WISCONSIN BIRDLIFE, POPULATION AND DISTRIBUTION, PAST AND PRESENT** by Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. 1991. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison. 702 pp. \$75.00

Birders visiting Wisconsin will wish to acquire this book. Coming out nearly at the same time as our own state guide, it invites comparison. The first difference is price; perhaps some of our members will be less critical of our membership price of \$24.00 when they see the price of the Wisconsin book. The Wisconsin book is professionally typeset and designed. The introductory sections cover the biological changes and history of Wisconsin ornithology. There is a long section on current Wisconsin ecology by James Hall Zimmerman. The ecology section contains many interesting maps but, curiously, while the introduction contains large, almost full-page photographs of Wisconsin ornithologists, the book includes no habitat photos.

The species accounts begin with a checklist showing distribution and status, a feature we omitted from our guide, although not without considerable debate. The accounts contain sections on status, habitat, migration dates, breeding data and a long commentary about each bird. The accounts lack portraits of the birds but do give reference to plates in another book, *The Birds of Wisconsin*. Some accounts of rarer species include photographs, a feature I would like to adopt in future editions of the South Dakota book.

In the migration section, extreme dates are given but not referenced as to observer or year of occurrence, thus the reader can make no independent conclusion as to their validity. Slightly more detailed information on migration dates is included in each species' commentary. But this organization makes locating these citations more difficult than if they were all placed in one location. The commentary section seems a trifle wordy (although our *Birds of South Dakota* may suffer from being too brief in some of its accounts). The commentary also gives notes on songs.

The book ends with a long chart on habitat preferences of Wisconsin birds. This listing is interesting, and perhaps of use to ecologists studying particular habitats, but basically is repetitious of data contained in the main body of the text. (This redundancy is why we left out the status list in our book.) There is a bibliography and also a list of observers. We had such a list in the first edition of the SD book, but omitted it in the revision. This list in the Wisconsin book is not page-referenced, so I suppose it stands mainly as an acknowledgement section. Finally there is a species index, with common and scientific names. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

## THE 1991 SUMMER SEASON

compiled by Dennis Skadsen  
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Grenville, SD 57239

The summer held a few surprises for birders. Ospreys nested below Pactola Dam, raising young for the first time since the 1800's. Buffleheads nested along the Big Sioux River and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested at Newton Hills State Park. Nests of Cassin's Finches and Eastern Meadowlarks were also reported. Out of range birds include a Golden Eagle and Turkey Vulture in Brown Co., a Common Poorwill in Faulk Co., and an Eastern Meadowlark in Union Co. Most unusual was a Chuckwill's Widow calling and seen in Union Co. Unusual mortality was noted on Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge after a hail storm on 27 May when an estimated 800 American White Pelicans, 263 Franklin's Gulls, 145 Double-crested Cormorants, 26 Ring-billed Gulls, and several ducks died. An excessive die-off of Red Crossbills occurred in the Black Hills due to *Salmonella enteritidis*. Dead crossbills were found in Hermosa and Rapid City.

Weather for the season brought above normal precipitations and below normal temperatures for June. July saw normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for all but the NE corner of the state. South-central SD was reported to be extremely dry during the last half of July. The state saw an unusual number of severe storms lasting well into July.

Observers cited in this report:

Jocie C. Baker (JCB)	Michael M. Melius (MMM)
Bruce Bessken (BB)	Ernest E. Miller (EEM)
Gordon Berkey (GB)	Jeffery S. Palmer (JSP)
John Blake (JB)	Marge J. Parker (MJP)
Gillian Bowser (Gb)	Lisa Peskin (LP)
Sheldon Cooper (SC)	Richard A. Peterson (RAP)
Patti Crawford (PC)	James E. Rorah (JER)
Brian Davis (BD)	Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS)
Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD)	Mark S. Skadsen (MSS)
Kurt Dean (KD)	Paul F. Springer (PFS)
Kim Eckert (KE)	Jerry C. Stanford (JCS)
Ken Graupmann (KG)	Galen L. Steffen (GLS)
Bruce K. Harris (BKH)	Steve Van Sickle (SVS)
Augie Hoeger (AH)	Dan Tallman (DAT)
Bill Huser (BH)	Dennis & Diane Wiesenborn (D&DW)
Barry Jones (BJ)	J. David Williams (JDW)
Jan A. Kieckhefer (JAK)	Nathaniel R. Whitney (NRW)
Robert W. Kieckhefer (RWK)	Joe Zarki (JZ)
Lester R. Lauritzen (LRL)	
Jon Little (JL)	
Marilyn Lutz (ML)	

Abbreviations used in this report: BNP — Badlands National Park; LNWR — Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge; NHSP — Newton Hills State Park;



SLNWR — Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge; WNWR —Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

- Eared Grebe—11 June, Clark Co., Dry Lake, 150 nests (WNWR). 15 June, Fall River Co. (RAP). 28 June, Meade Co., Bear Butte Lake, 200+ young (NRW).
- Western Grebe—28 June, BNP (BD, BB). 22 August SLNWR, 2 adults on nests, **LATEST EVER NESTING** (SLNWR).
- Clark's Grebe—5 July, Day Co. (BKH). 27 July, Roberts Co., Lake Traverse, pair feeding young, **SECOND BREEDING RECORD FOR STATE** (KE).
- American Bittern—18 June, LNWR, nest with 4 eggs (BJ).
- Great Egret—6 June, Kingsbury Co., Lake Thompson, 38 nests; Lake Preston, 86 nests; Lake Albert, 83 nests (SJD). 1 July, LNWR (BJ).
- Snowy Egret—6 June, Kingsbury Co., 3 (SJD). 21 June, SLNWR (SLNWR). 5 July, Day Co. (BKH).
- Cattle Egret—6 June, Kingsbury Co., Lake Thompson, 17 (SJD). 16 July LNWR, 5 (BJ). 31 July, SLNWR, 100 in nesting colony (SLNWR).
- White-faced Ibis—11 June, Clark Co., 3 July, Codington Co. 21 (WNWR). 18 June, Sully Co., Stone Lake (PFS).
- Greater White-fronted Goose—2 June, Codington Co. (PFS). 8 June, Brown Co. (JCS).
- Snow Goose—2 June, Codington Co., 3 (PFS). 4 June, Lake Co., 7 (SJD).
- Cinnamon Teal—15 June, Fall River Co., pair (RAP). 16 June–7 July, BNP (JZ). All summer, Meade Co., male (EEM).
- Lesser Scaup—8 June, Jackson Co. (NRW, JZ). 28 June, Deuel Co., pair (BKH).
- BUFFLEHEAD**—22 May, Brookings Co., Oakwood Lakes, nest with 6 eggs in Wood Duck nesting box, **FIRST CONFIRMED NESTING OF THE SPECIES IN THE STATE** (LP, JER). 17 June, Sully Co., 2 males (PFS).
- Hooded Merganser—1 June, Codington Co. (PFS). 6 June, Hamlin Co. (SJD). 7 June, SLNWR (SLNWR). Seven nests with 3 successfully hatching young in Wood Duck boxes along Big Sioux River, Brookings Co. (LP, JER).
- Common Merganser—5–6 June, Kingsbury Co., 2 males (SJD).
- Turkey Vulture—26 June, Union Co., 2 (BKH). 16 July, SLNWR (SLNWR). 4, 8 July, NHSP, 2 (MSS). 13 July, NHSP, 4 (RWK, JAK).
- OSPREY**—25 July, Pennington Co., Pactola Dam, nest with 2–3 young located on power pole below Dam (RAP et al.). 6 June, Lawrence Co., carrying food (EEM).
- Cooper's Hawk—15 June, Fall River Co. (RAP). 25 June, NHSP (BKH). Late June, Pennington Co., nest observed (PC). 2 July, Roberts Co. (BKH).
- Northern Goshawk—2 July, Pennington Co., nest with young (RAP).
- Broad-winged Hawk—1 June, Minnehaha Co., fledged young with adult (AH). 29 June, Lawrence Co., nest with young (RAP).
- Ferruginous Hawk—4 June, Grant Co. (PFS). 13 June, Faulk Co., nest with young; and 2 July, Custer Co. (MMM). July observations in BNP and Pennington Co. (JZ).
- Golden Eagle—17 July, SLNWR (SLNWR).
- Merlin—8 June, Meade Co. (PFS).
- Prairie Falcon—19 June, Meade Co., (D&DW). 27 July, BNP Co. (GB).
- Virginia Rail—17 June, LNWR, nest with eggs (BJ). 1 August, Meade Co. (JCB).
- Sandhill Crane—6 June, Hamlin Co., very late (SJD).
- Semipalmated Plover—7 July, Marshall Co., **TIES EARLIEST EVER FALL** (DRS, MSS).
- Piping Plover—22 June, Walworth Co., Missouri River, 2 (JCS).
- Hudsonian Godwit—3 June, LNWR, very late (BH).
- Marbled Godwit—11 June, LNWR, pair (BJ). 16 June, Bennett Co. (RAP). 2 July, Aurora Co., pair (PFS).
- Sanderling—6 June, Kingsbury Co., 2 very late (SJD).
- Least Sandpiper—7 July, Marshall Co., 3 very early fall migrants? (DRS, MSS).
- Short-billed Dowitcher—30 June, BNP, very early fall migrant (BJ).
- Long-billed Dowitcher—7 June, Ziebach Co., **LATEST EVER SPRING** (PFS)

American Woodcock—23 June, Union Co., (JL). 2 July, WNWR (WNWR). 21 July, Minnehaha Co., 2 (AH).

Bonaparte's Gull—6 June, Hamlin Co. 3 in immature plumage (SJD).

California Gull—6 June, Hamlin Co. (SJD). 29 June, Pennington Co. (ML, JZ). 2 July, Aurora Co. (PFS). Observed in nesting colonies on Waubay and Bitter Lakes (BKH).

Caspian Tern—2-7 July, Yankton Co., Lake Yankton, 2 (SVS).

Least Tern—6 June, Kingsbury Co., Lake Preston (SJD). 22 June, Walworth Co., 2 (JCS). 26 June, Union Co., 3 (BKH).

Black Tern—15 June, Fall River Co. (RAP).

Black-billed Cuckoo—14 July, Edmunds Co., nest with young and egg (JDW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—6 June, Corson Co., 2 (PFS). 31 June, Beadle Co. (JCS). 3 July, Custer Co. (MMM). 4, 8 July, NHSP (MSS). Nested in Jackson Co. (KG).

Long-eared Owl—17 June, Fall River Co., road kill (RAP).

Common Poorwill—20 July, **FAULK** Co., calling, rare bird form submitted (MMM).

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW**—16 June, Union Co., calling, rare bird form submitted (BH).

Whip-poor-will—21-22 June, Union Co., 3-4 calling (JL).

Chimney Swift—2-3 observed entering chimney, Turner Co. (LRL).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—3 June, Brookings Co. (JAK). 4 June, Day Co. (DRS). 4, 8 July, NHSP, male and female observed (MSS). 25 July, Roberts Co. (BKH).

Red-naped Sapsucker—20 June, Lawrence Co., nest with young (NRW). 27 July, Custer Co. (JSP).

Three-toed Woodpecker—2 July, Pennington Co. (RAP). 28 July, Custer Co. (JSP)

Black-backed Woodpecker—4 June, Custer Co., 2 (JL).

Olive-sided Flycatcher—16 June, Custer Co. (PFS).

Western Wood-Pewee—2 June, Fall River Co., building nest (JL).

Willow Flycatcher—18 June, LNWR, nest with eggs (BJ).

Dusky Flycatcher—17 June, Custer Co., and 19 June, Lawrence Co. (D&DW). Also observed in Pennington Co. (NRW).

Eastern Phoebe—14 July, Minnehaha Co., pair at nest with 4 eggs (JL).

**CASSIN'S KINGBIRD**—2 June, Shannon Co. (JL). 3 July, Bennett Co., pair at nest, and 5 July, Shannon Co., pair at nest, **SECOND AND THIRD STATE NEST RECORDS** (PFS).

Horned Lark—7 June, Turner Co., nest with 3 eggs (LRL).

Clark's Nutcracker—7 June, Custer Co. (JL). 13 June, Pennington Co., 2 (RAP).

Black-billed Magpie—17 July, Yankton Co., fledged young unable to fly, east of normal breeding range (SVS).

Pygmy Nuthatch—30 July, Custer Co. (RAP).

Brown Creeper—28 July, Custer Co. (JSP).

Canyon Wren—26 July, BNP (JB).

Sedge Wren—7 June, Edmunds Co., 8 to 10 birds (JDW).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—4 July, NHSP, nest with young, 8 July, total of 7 birds in the area (MSS, AH). 29 July, Custer Co. (JSP)

Townsend's Solitaire—11 June, Lawrence Co., nest with eggs and young (RAP).

Wood Thrush—25 June, NHSP, 3 males singing (BKH). 3 July, Clay Co., adult carrying food (SVS). 8 July, NHSP, singing (MSS).

Northern Mockingbird—13 June, Custer Co. (EEM).

Sage Thrasher—6 June, Fall River Co., 6 singing (JL). 10 July, Butte Co. (GB).

Loggerhead Shrike—23 June, Union Co. (JL).

Bell's Vireo—5 June, Corson Co. (PFS). 20 June, LNWR, nest with young (BJ).

Yellow-throated Vireo—2 July, Day Co., singing (DRS). 8 July, NHSP, 3 singing (MSS). Also reported from Clay Co. (KD, SC).

Red-eyed Vireo—4 July, NHSP, pair at nest (MSS).

Tennessee Warbler—4 July, Day Co., male banded (DRS).

Yellow-rumped Warbler—12 July, Custer Co., adult feeding juvenile cowbird (MJP).  
 Cerulean Warbler—4 July, NHSP, male (MSS). 8 July NHSP, adult carrying food (MSS, AH).  
 Black-and-white Warbler—16 July, Custer Co. (EEM). 30 July, Lawrence Co., 2 (NRW).  
 American Redstart—2 June, Fall River Co., 2 (JL). 11 June, Pennington Co., singing (NRW). 18 June, Union Co., pair at nest (SC). 4 July, NHSP, pair at nest with 2 young (MSS).  
 Ovenbird—25 June, NHSP. 2 singing (BKH).  
 MacGillivray's Warbler—19 June, Lawrence Co., 6 singing (D&DW).  
 Scarlet Tanager—25 June, NHSP, 3 singing (BKH).  
 Western Tanager—3 July, Bennett Co., male carrying food (PFS).  
 Northern Cardinal—4 July, NHSP, nest with young (MSS).  
 Black-headed Grosbeak—28 July, Spink Co. (JCS).  
 Brewer's Sparrow—18 June, Fall River Co., 10, including adults carrying food to young (D&DW).  
 Field Sparrow—22 June, Union Co., nest with eggs and young (JL).  
 Vesper Sparrow—18 June, Turner Co., nest with young (LRL).  
 Lark Sparrow—25 June, Union Co. (BKH). 30 June, Union Co., pair (PFS). 4 July, NHSP (MSS).  
 Savannah Sparrow—25 June, 22 July, LNWR, singing (BJ).  
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow—6 July, McPherson Co. (JDW).  
 Swamp Sparrow—1 July, Aurora Co., singing (PFS).  
 McCown's Longspur—14 July, Harding Co., 2 (GB).  
 Eastern Meadowlark—7 June, LNWR, nest with eggs, **SECOND CONFIRMED NESTING IN STATE** (BJ). 1 July, Union Co., 2 singing (PFS).  
 Cassin's Finch—2 June, Custer Co., pair (MJP).  
 House Finch—4 June, Grant Co., singing, and 29 June, Union Co., 2 singing (PFS). 20 July, Brookings Co., adults with fledged young (JAK). 25+ reported from Gregory Co., where immatures and females with brood patches indicate breeding (GLS). Also reported nesting in Jackson Co., nest with 4 young (KG) and Brown Co. (DAT).  
 Red Crossbill—7 June, 4 July, Day Co., 4 (DRS). 14 June, Brookings Co., pair (RWK, JAK).  
 Pine Siskin—2 June, Brown Co., 4 (JCS).  
 Evening Grosbeak—16 July, Meade Co., adult carrying food (EEM).

## NOTICE

Several new Breeding Bird Survey Routes have been established in the Black Hills. Qualified birders are needed to run these routes. People selected will be paid \$100 per route by the Black Hills National Forest.

If interested, contact Richard Peterson at Box 145, Midland SD, 57552

The SDOU is grateful to Gladyce Rogge for her contribution, in memory of her husband Charles, to the *Bird Notes* Publishing Fund. If others wish to add to this fund in Charles' memory, please contact Nelda Holden, Rt 4, Box 252, Brookings SD 57006.

Published by  
SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION  
EDITOR: DAN TALLMAN  
NSU BOX 740  
ABERDEEN SD 57401

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