
S O U T H D A K O T A
O R N I T H O L O G I S T S ' U N I O N



SDOU FOUNDING MEMEMBERS

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Anniversary Meeting at Madison, South Dakota,
7 October 1989:

Front row: Charles Rogge, Bruce Harris, Willis Hall

Back row: Cecil Haight, Harry Behrens

S O U T H
B I R D



D A K O T A
N O T E S

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By now many of you may have forgotten the events of the last week in April. Let me remind you of a few of the things that occurred. April 22 was Earth Day, the same week was National Wildlife Week, and April 27 was Arbor Day. All of these events were celebrated in different ways by people to show a love for our earth.

Also by now most of you have completed your spring migration birding and probably really enjoyed seeing your feathered friends who signaled the end of winter.

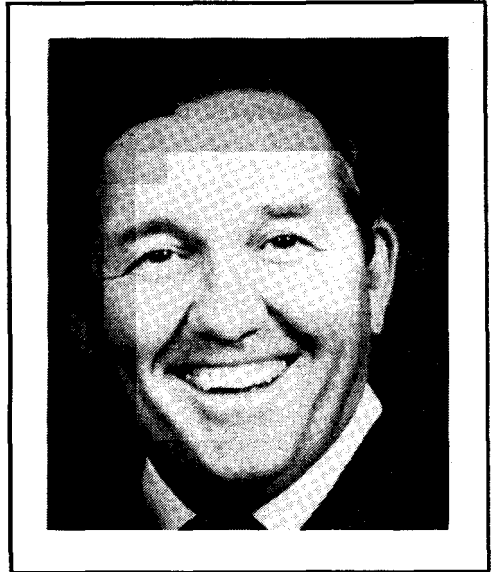
Now I would like to share with you my spring birding. The words "Silent Spring" will tell most of the story. Last September Ducks Un-

limited and the US Forest Service drained Kadoka Lake to provide better waterfowl reproduction. With a lack of winter snows and spring rains, Kadoka Lake was just a memory this spring.

I never realized how much you would miss something until it is gone. This spring at Kadoka Lake there were no spectacular flights of ducks to watch as the sun set over the the water, no looking for a new species of shorebird, no calling of Canada Geese or Sandhill Cranes. And, last of all, no chance of seeing my first South Dakota Whooping Crane.

I don't know if I could live in a world that had a "Silent Spring." I know that some day the drought will end and Kadoka Lake will have water again and I will be able to enjoy all the things that I have shared with you. All these problems make me want to work even harder to educate people about the need to preserve and conserve all of our earth's natural resources. I hope that you will join me in trying to make every day Earth Day and every week National Wildlife Week. Pray that none of us will ever live through a "Silent Spring."

Good Birding this summer. Remember that every bird needs a place to hang its hat and only we can give it that place. *Ken Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka, SD 57543.*



BANDING ON FARM ISLAND

by Gladyce Rogge
2012 S Grange Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Beginning in 1964, Charles Rogge and I banded birds on Farm Island near Pierre, South Dakota. In the early years, banding was very rewarding, especially during the spring migration. In the 1960's, banders from all parts of the state met at Farm Island, enjoying the group banding and fellowship. After the Big Bend Dam was built on the Missouri River and Farm Island State Park was vacated in 1965, the island was partially inundated and it was impossible to reach the good banding areas. For a long period during the 1970's, we did no banding there. Later we were able to put nets in a small area, and occasionally did some banding, the last in 1987.

From 1964 through 1987, we banded on parts or all of 66 days, netting 1324 birds of 73 species. Probably the most unusual species was a Worm-eating Warbler on 23 May 1965. For us, other unusual species included a fledged Great Horned Owl, which was incapable of sustained flight, and a Broad-winged Hawk.

Occasionally waves of single species were encountered. On 14-16 May 1970, we banded 43 Least Flycatchers. Twenty-one Swainson's Thrushes were banded in May 1965, none in May 1966, and 66 in May 1967. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were less abundant but we had 31 in May 1967. Small numbers of Wood Thrushes were banded, a total of seven over the years.

Bell's Vireos were present in May, June, and July, and Yellow Warblers, American Redstarts, Gray Catbirds, Spotted Towhees, and Black-headed Grosbeaks occurred throughout the summer. We photographed the latter species feeding their young in a nest.

In May 1970, mixed flocks of sparrows appeared. Twenty-two Chipping and 33 Clay-colored Sparrows were banded in two days. Twenty-seven Lincoln's Sparrows were banded in two days in May 1967.

During these banding years, we recovered 18 birds that had been banded by others: four Gray Catbirds, four Black-headed Grosbeaks, and three American Robins. A Red-eyed Vireo banded by Scott Findley on 23 May 1965 and an American Robin banded by Hill in May 1979 were each recovered by us 48 months after banding.

Eight birds we banded were recovered by others. G. G. Robinson recovered a Black-headed Grosbeak 24 months after banding and Rex Riis found an American Redstart on 16 May 1983, 22 months after we banded it.

We had numerous returns of birds we banded; the longest interval between banding and renetting was 36 months for an American Redstart. Except one robin recovered north of Pierre, all recoveries and returns were made at Farm Island.

The following is a summary of our banding records at Farm Island:

Broad-winged Hawk	1	Downy Woodpecker	1
Killdeer	1	Hairy Woodpecker	7
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Yellow-shafted Flicker	6
Mourning Dove	5	Intergrade Flicker	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Eastern Wood-Pewee	1
Great Horned Owl	1	Traill's Flycatcher	30

Least Flycatcher	91	American Redstart	115
Western Flycatcher	3	Worm-eating Warbler	1
Unidentified Empidonax	2	Ovenbird	15
Great Crested Flycatcher	8	Northern Waterthrush	20
Eastern Kingbird	2	Mourning Warbler	2
Blue Jay	5	MacGillivray's Warbler	1
Black-capped Chickadee	41	Common Yellowthroat	26
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	Wilson's Warbler	7
House Wren	38	Yellow-breasted Chat	28
Winter Wren	2	Scarlet Tanager	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23	Northern Cardinal	6
Eastern Bluebird	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	43	Black-headed Grosbeak	42
Swainson's Thrush	132	Lazuli Bunting	5
Wood Thrush	7	Indigo Bunting	7
American Robin	19	Spotted Towhee	63
Gray Catbird	80	Chipping Sparrow	25
Brown Thrasher	15	Clay-colored Sparrow	40
Cedar Waxwing	2	Field Sparrow	4
European Starling	6	Song Sparrow	2
Bell's Vireo	18	Lincoln's Sparrow	44
Solitary Vireo	2	White-throated Sparrow	12
Warbling Vireo	10	Gambel's Sparrow	6
Red-eyed Vireo	16	Harris' Sparrow	5
Orange-crowned Warbler	48	Slate-colored Junco	3
Nashville Warbler	1	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Yellow Warbler	74	Common Grackle	3
Magnolia Warbler	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	14
Myrtle Warbler	8	Orchard Oriole	18
Blackpoll	9	Baltimore Oriole	2
Black-and-White Warbler	21	American Goldfinch	11

BANDING RECOVERIES OF SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS

Part 2: Larks, Corvids, Starling, and Blackbirds

By Dan Tallman
Northern State University
Aberdeen 57401

INTRODUCTION. This article is the second of a projected series summarizing bird banding recoveries of South Dakota birds. I have included both birds banded in South Dakota and recovered outside the state and birds banded elsewhere but recovered in South Dakota. The banding records include many interesting local recaptures but, for the most part, I have ignored these data. In this survey. The taxonomic sequence is by AOU numbers, and, therefore, somewhat archaic.

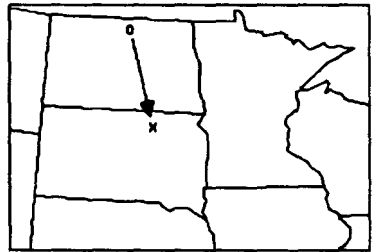
METHODS AND MATERIALS. The information upon which these maps are made come from a printout run on 5 January 1990 by the Band-

ing Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The maps were computer generated on MapMaker for the Macintosh by Select Micro Systems, Inc.

EXPLANATION OF THE MAPS. On these maps, "O" is the approximate point of banding and "X" is the approximate point of recovery. Because the Banding Office does not record exact locality data and because computer mapping is imprecise, the location points on the maps should only be considered as approximate. When discrete banding or recovery points are close together, they are represented by a single "O" or "X". The arrows also reflect points of origin and recovery. Birds recovered well after the year of banding may have enjoyed wide migratory patterns in the interval between banding and recovery. Identical records are not indicated on the maps. Some records that do not add to the informational content of the map have also been ignored.

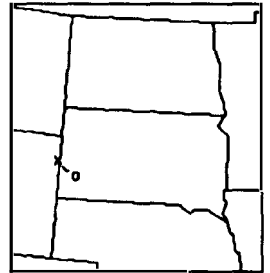
A WORD ON THE TEXT. The maps tend to be self explanatory. However, to the left of the maps, I have included a short text that identifies the species for which the map is drawn and includes some noteworthy records.

Map 6. Horned Lark. This single record is of a Horned Lark banded in North Dakota on 15 August 1961 and recovered in South Dakota in March 1962. The individual probably was migrating north from south of our state when the bird was recovered. Of four Horned Larks banded and recovered in the Aberdeen area, the longest time interval was a bird banded 16 March 1934 and recovered 26 February 1935. No other Horned Lark recoveries are known.



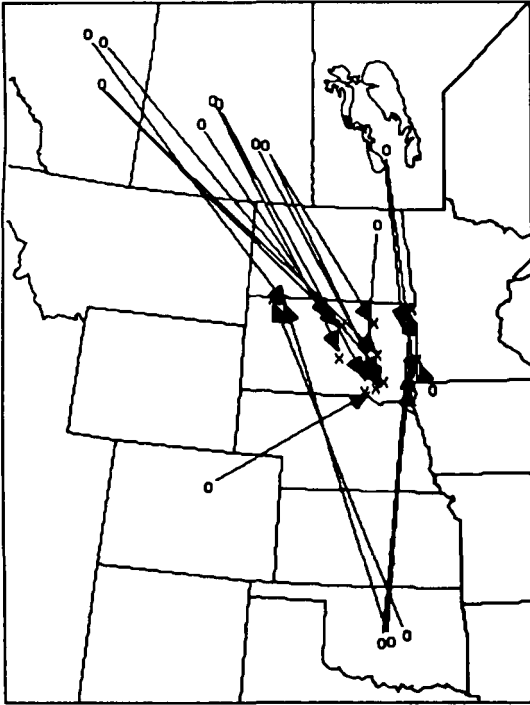
Horned Lark

Map 7. Black-billed Magpie. This species' only recovery is of a bird banded in South Dakota on 18 June 1978 and recaptured just across the Wyoming line on 20 January 1980.

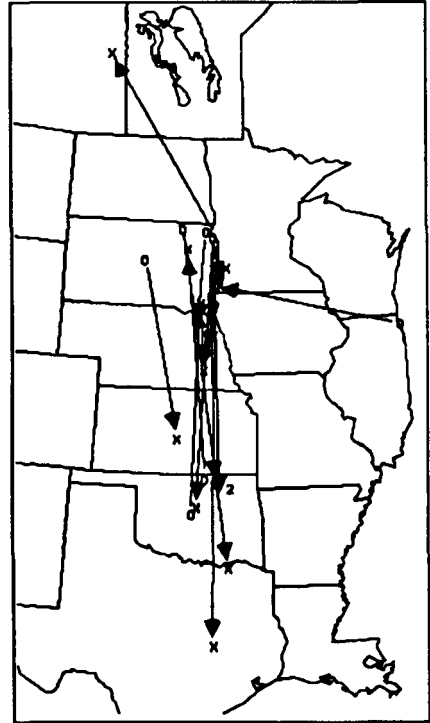


Black-billed
Magpie

Map 8. Blue Jay. The 16 South Dakota banding recoveries indicate that Blue Jays appear to have a north-south compass by which to migrate. The most notable exception is the bird banded in Illinois and recovered in eastern South Dakota. But this bird was banded on 13 August 1935 and recovered on 13 May 1937, thus the individual may have slowly shifted its normal north-south route to the west. The oldest bird in this set was a bird banded in Oklahoma on 1 January 1952 and recovered in South Dakota on 14 April 1963, having survived over 12 years. Another noteworthy record is of a bird banded in South Dakota on 16 September 1935 and recovered in Nebraska on 28 July 1936, thus breeding well south of its



Common Crow

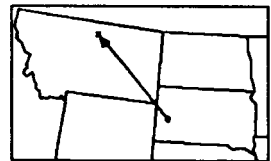


Blue Jay

original banding location. Three of these records are of birds banded in South Dakota and recovered the next winter in the south (two in Oklahoma and one in Nebraska). Finally, the Saskatchewan recovery was made sometime in April 1964 of a South Dakota bird banded on 24 December 1958.

Map 9. Common Crow. Curiously, none of the five South Dakota banded crows were encountered outside the state. The shortest interval between banding and recovery was a crow banded in Alberta on 24 November 1929 and recovered in South Dakota on 17 December 1929. The oldest bird was banded in Manitoba on 16 March 1924 and recovered in South Dakota on 13 January 1938.

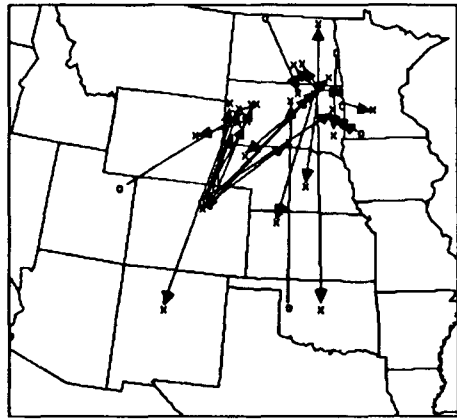
Map 10. Pinyon Jay. This record, of a bird banded 3 March 1956 at Rapid City and recovered in Montana in August 1961, was reported along with other local recovery data, by Whitney (SDBN 34:29). Forty-one birds banded in South Dakota have also been recovered in the state. The oldest of these birds was banded by Whitney on 12 March 1956 and recovered sometime in October 1966.



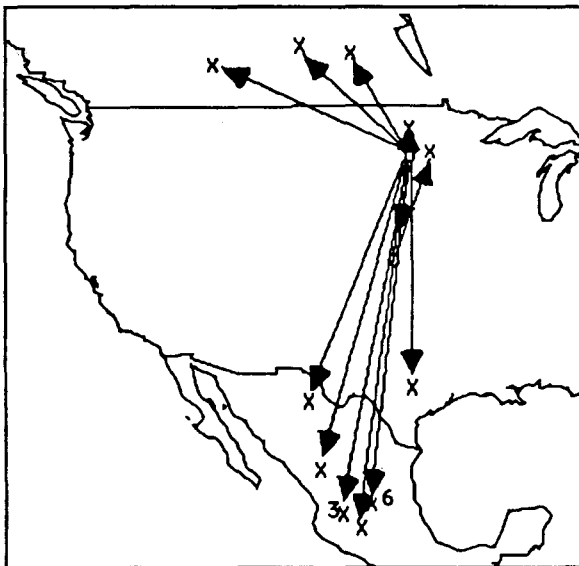
Pinyon Jay

Map 11. European Starling. Banding the often maligned starling gives us a very surprising recovery map. The recoveries indicated a strong SW mi-

gration. Although some eastern birds show a more north-south tendency, even these birds have been recovered to the southwest. Despite this pattern, starlings are believed to have first invaded South Dakota from the east (Whitney, et al., 1968. *The Birds of South Dakota*. SDOU). A starling banded in Utah on 16 January 1953 was recovered in western South Dakota in May 1953; a bird banded in Colorado on 8 January 1963 was recovered in South Dakota in March 1963; one banded in North Dakota on 12 July 1966 was found in South Dakota on 19 December 1966; and a starling banded in NE South Dakota on 25 September 1963 was recovered in Kansas in December 1963. An older recapture was a bird banded in eastern South Dakota on 20 May 1976 and recaptured at the same location on 4 June 1981.



European Starling



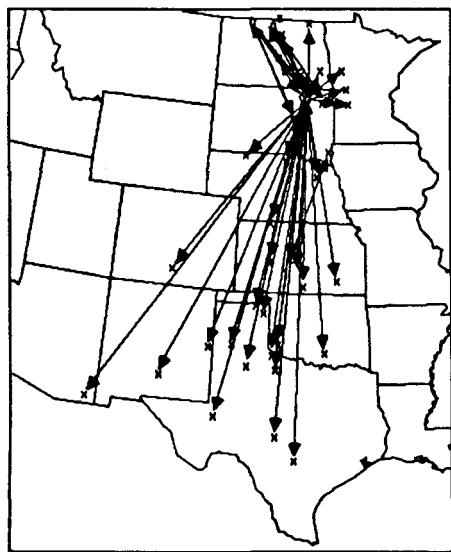
Brown-headed Cowbird

Map 12. Brown-headed Cowbird. Cowbirds are international migrants. Most of the recoveries originate from Brown Co. in the late 1930's and 1940's or in the early 1960's. Noteworthy recoveries include a bird banded in South Dakota on 1 August 1963 and recovered in Guanajuato, Mexico, on 7 November 1963. A bird recaptured in North Dakota in July 1963 was banded in Brown Co. on 17 May 1963. Another Brown Co. cowbird was banded on 17 May 1965 and recovered in North Dakota on 10 May 1970. This latter record was too close to the point of origin to be shown on the map.

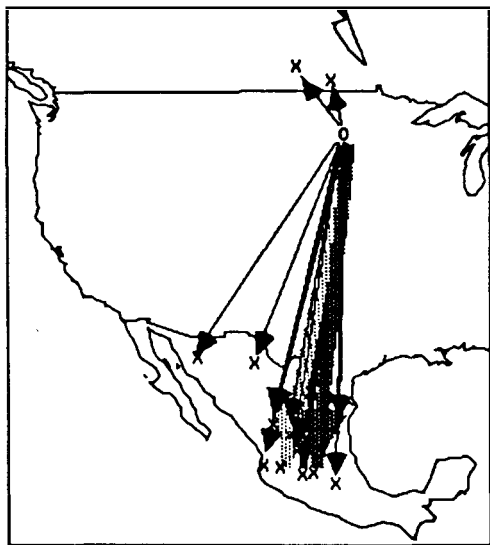
Note that the Canadian recoveries were made in years subsequent to the year of banding, thus these birds went south from South Dakota before arriving in Canada in the following years.

Map 13 a and b. Yellow-headed Blackbird recoveries outside the USA (a) and within the USA (b). These maps are somewhat different from the others presented so far. During the 1960's and late 1930's, 227 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were banded in northern Brown Co. and recovered both in and out of the state. No other banded South Dakota Yellow-headed Blackbird has been recovered. Map a. shows blackbirds recovered outside

the United States. However, the banding office does not give individual latitudes and longitudes for Mexican recoveries and, thus, each Mexican state is shown by a single recovery point. The size of the arrow is relative to the number of birds recovered within each Mexican state (the majority of these recoveries are from the states of Jalisco (38), Guanajuato (37), and Michoacan (20). Undoubtedly, this area of central Mexico is where most of our Yellow-headed Blackbirds winter. This pattern is also reflected in map b., with the majority of birds recovered between central Mexico and South Dakota. Many Mexican recoveries were made in the fall and winter following the summer they were banded (29), the shortest interval being one banded in Brown Co. on 2 September 1969 and recovered in Michoacan 22 days later. Same season recoveries have also been made for South Dakota birds found in North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas (2), and for birds banded in Kansas and Nebraska, which where recovered in our state. Interestingly, however, none of the birds banded in South Dakota and recovered in Canada (or Minnesota) were found in the same year, indicating that these birds wintered, presumably in Mexico, and did not return to Brown Co. The oldest recovery, either local or out-of-state was of a bird banded in Brown Co. on 10 August 1967 and recovered in North Dakota sometime in December 1977. Finally, a few birds banded in South Dakota and recovered just over the North Dakota line have not been shown on the map.



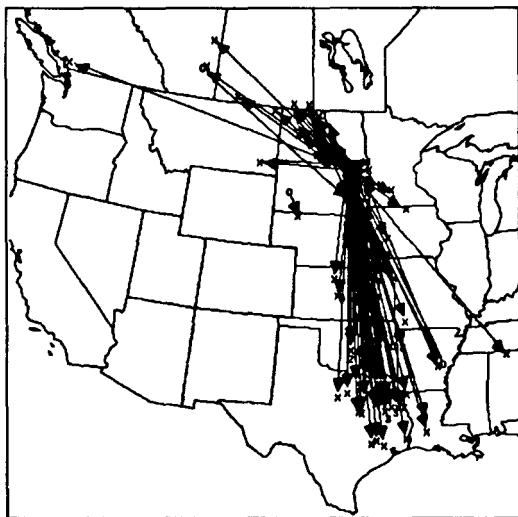
USA Yellow-headed Blackbird recoveries



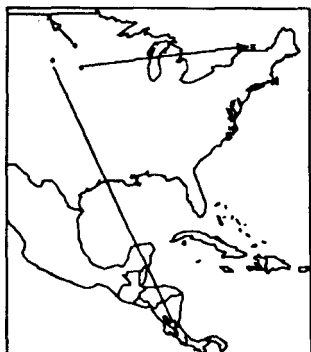
Foreign Yellow-headed Blackbird recoveries.

Map 14. Red-winged Blackbird. All but a very few recoveries made just over the North Dakota border are shown on this map. Of the 120 interstate recoveries, 103 were banded in northern Brown Co. Of all the recoveries, 30% were made in North Dakota and 23% were made in Texas. The consistency of a north-south migration route for this nation-wide breeding species is a bit surprising--I expected more variation in recoveries. The oldest Red-winged Blackbird was at least 17 years old, banded on 18 August

1964 and recovered on 15 July 1982. Two noteworthy North Dakota recoveries of South Dakota birds include one banded on 13 August 1963 and recovered on 10 September 1963 and one banded on 1 September 1967 and recovered 10 September 1967, suggesting a northward movement in late fall. Finally, the bird recovered in British Columbia was banded on 7 September 1964 and recovered on 5 June 1966, and thus should not be interpreted as a direct migration route.



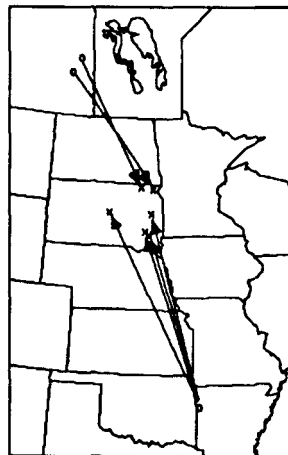
Red-winged Blackbird



Northern Oriole

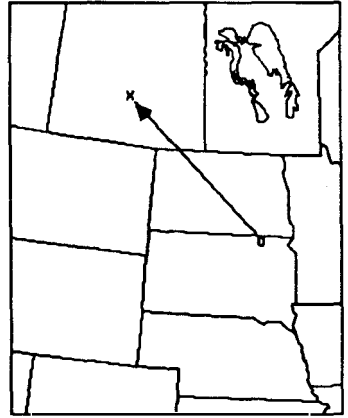
Map 15. Northern Oriole The North Dakota and Quebec recoveries are of the Baltimore race of this species and were found a year or two after being banded. The Costa Rican bird was a Bullock's Oriole banded in South Dakota on 20 July 1985 and recovered on 31 October 1985.

Map 16. Rusty Blackbird. The most noteworthy of these recoveries is a bird banded in Arkansas on 5 March 1932 and recovered in South Dakota on 21 April 1932. Others of the Arkansas-banded birds were actually recovered on their fall migration in subsequent years, thus probably returning from more northerly breeding areas.



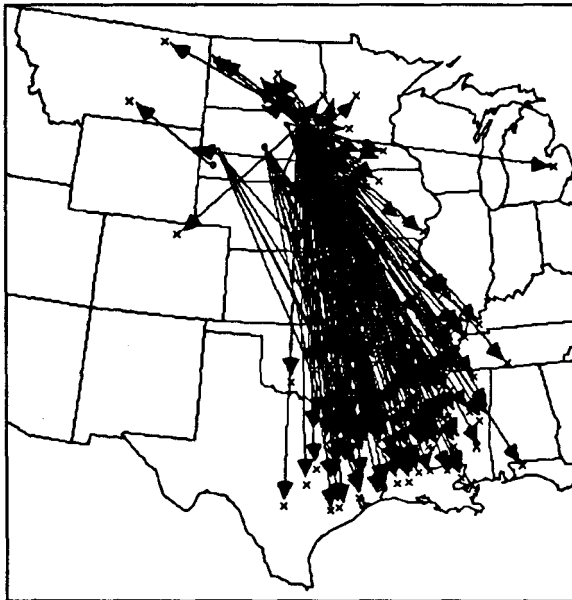
Rusty Blackbird

Map 17. Brewer's Blackbird. The lone out-of-state recovery for this species was banded in South Dakota on 1 August 1969 and recovered in Saskatchewan in October 1977.

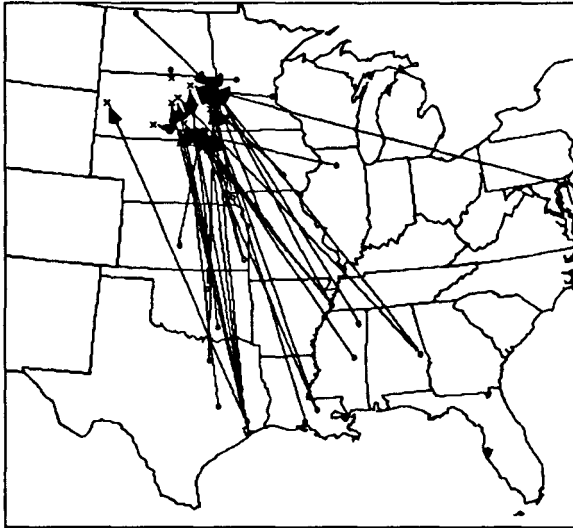


Brewer's Blackbird

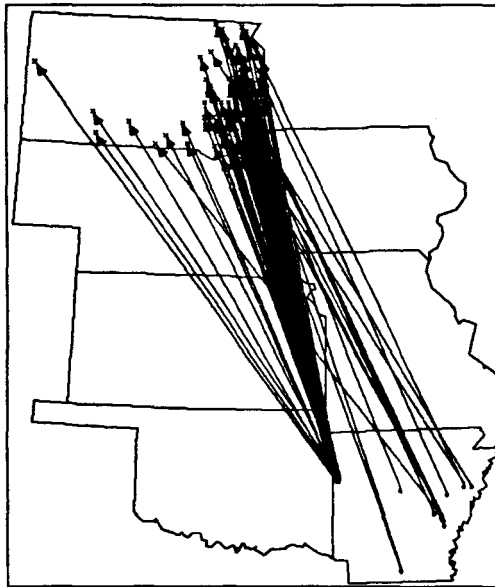
Map 18a , b, and c. Common Grackle. (a, birds banded in South Dakota and recovered out of state; b, grackles banded in state and recovered elsewhere; c, grackles banded in Arkansas and recovered in South Dakota. Summary of Common Grackles banded in South Dakota and recovered out of state.



Common Grackles banded in South Dakota



Common Grackles recovered in South Dakota



Common Grackles banded in Arkansas and recovered in South Dakota

GENERAL NOTES

TURKEY VULTURE WITH WING TAG AT NEWTON HILLS. On 8 July 1989, Gil Blankespoor and I located a Turkey Vulture roost in Newton Hills State Park. The birds roosted in the northern portion of the park, west of the picnic shelter. The roost consisted of three standing dead trees and contained 22 Turkey Vultures, all adult-plumaged. One of the birds had been tagged, a red disc with the number 20 in white, on its left wing. I reported this sighting to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Bird Banding Laboratory.

In response to my report, I was contacted by Michael Mossman of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. As part of a long-term study of Turkey Vultures, the Wisconsin DNR tagged this bird as a nestling on 3 August 1987. The nest was in a talus outcrop in the Baraboo Hills, Sauk Co., Wisconsin. Since 1983, the Wisconsin DNR has tagged 150 Turkey Vultures. Our sighting was the third confirmed breeding season sighting outside of Wisconsin. *Mark Skadsen, 1209 N. Harlem, Sioux Falls 57104.*

ABERDEEN BANDING: 1988-1989. The following is a list of the birds I banded during 1988 and 1989 at 1709 North Jay Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

	1988	1989		1988	1989
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	5	Warbling Vireo	3	4
Broad-winged Hawk	0	2	Philadelphia Vireo	0	1
Merlin	1	0	Red-eyed Vireo	6	8
Mourning Dove	4	25	Golden-winged Warbler	1	0
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	1	Tennessee Warbler	2	5
Northern Saw-whet Owl	8	3	Orange-crowned Warbler	54	33
Downy Woodpecker	11	1	Nashville Warbler	4	0
Northern Flicker	6	8	Yellow Warbler	5	9
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	2
"Traill's" Flycatcher	3	28	Magnolia Warbler	1	1
Least Flycatcher	5	11	Yellow-rumped Warbler	43	39
Barn Swallow	0	1	Black-thr Green Warbler	1	0
Blue Jay	3	8	Bay-breasted Warbler	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	50	50	Palm Warbler	1	0
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	13	Blackpoll Warbler	0	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	11	Black-&-white Warbler	5	3
Brown Creeper	6	17	American Redstart	3	9
House Wren	7	22	Worm-eating Warbler	1	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	12	31	Ovenbird	13	11
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	22	20	Northern Waterthrush	0	3
Veery	1	1	Connecticut Warbler	2	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	11	8	Mourning Warbler	5	12
Swainson's Thrush	61	86	MacGillivray's Warbler	0	1
Hermit Thrush	4	3	Common Yellowthroat	2	10
American Robin	121	111	Wilson's Warbler	17	0
Gray Catbird	1	12	Canada Warbler	0	1
Brown Thrasher	11	12	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	0
Cedar Waxwing	8	6	Rufous-sided Towhee	1	3
Northern Shrike	1	2	American Tree Sparrow	9	8
European Starling	4	4	Chipping Sparrow	6	5
Solitary Vireo	1	0	Clay-colored Sparrow	2	3

Fox Sparrow	2	0	Brown-headed Cowbird	0	2
Song Sparrow	1	1	Orchard Oriole	5	0
Lincoln's Sparrow	14	15	Northern Oriole	0	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	3	Purple Finch	26	4
White-throated Sparrow	21	52	Red Crossbill	1	0
White-crowned Sparrow	0	1	White-winged Crossbill	0	8
Harris' Sparrow	3	18	Common Redpoll	357	10
Slate-colored Junco	274	491	Pine Siskin	677	242
Oregon Junco	4	6	American Goldfinch	38	132
Red-winged Blackbird	3	5	House Sparrow	0	4
Common Grackle	55	179			

Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen 57401.

Two-Year Summary of the 40 Most Common Breeding Birds in South Dakota. The SDOU Breeding Bird Atlas Project has completed its second year (1989). To date we have 6785 records of 221 species of birds in the data base (not including records of casual observations). A record is a sighting of a specific bird in a specific block. Data were obtained from 220 different blocks and managed areas.

Table 1 gives the names of the 40 most commonly reported breeding birds with the total number of records and the breeding status for each. The CO category means the bird is confirmed to breed in the block. The PR category means the bird probably breeds in the block. The PO category means the bird possibly breeds in the block. The O category means the bird was observed during the breeding season but we have no other evidence of breeding.

Table 1. Two year summary of the 40 most common breeding birds in South Dakota 1988 and 1989. See text for further details.

BIRD NAME	TOTAL RECORDS	CO	PR	PO	O
MOURNING DOVE	167	83	42	42	0
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	162	60	68	34	0
WESTERN MEADOWLARK	158	44	63	51	0
EASTERN KINGBIRD	157	42	70	45	0
BARN SWALLOW	150	59	21	64	6
COMMON GRACKLE	148	83	25	40	0
KILLDEER	143	33	54	55	1
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	133	18	79	36	0
AMERICAN ROBIN	129	70	19	40	0
MALLARD	128	42	61	25	0
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	125	6	37	82	0
WESTERN KINGBIRD	123	36	40	47	0
ORCHARD ORIOLE	107	17	35	55	0
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	105	3	48	54	0
HOUSE WREN	104	23	28	53	0
NORTHERN FLICKER	99	23	15	60	1
BROWN THRASHER	98	23	31	44	0
HORNED LARK	95	28	17	50	0
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	92	24	50	18	0

YELLOW WARBLER	89	10	19	60	0
RED-TAILED HAWK	88	14	12	62	0
HOUSE SPARROW	84	44	8	31	1
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	81	2	25	54	0
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	79	15	7	57	0
UPLAND SANDPIPER	78	10	29	39	0
YELLOW-HD. BLACKBIRD	77	17	41	17	2
NORTHERN ORIOLE	76	18	17	41	0
EUROPEAN STARLING	74	34	4	36	0
LARK BUNTING	74	13	39	21	1
BLUE JAY	73	19	17	37	0
DICKCISSEL	72	6	27	39	0
BLACK-CP. CHICKADEE	72	11	17	44	0
AMERICAN KESTREL	71	9	17	44	1
RED-HD. WOODPECKER	69	18	9	42	0
CLIFF SWALLOW	66	36	6	22	2
BOBOLINK	64	3	27	34	0
WARBLING VIREO	64	7	17	40	0
VESPER SPARROW	63	6	12	45	0
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	60	1	5	54	0
SWAINSON'S HAWK	59	16	16	24	3

Robert Buckman, Dakota State University, Madison SD 57042.

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS OF THE SEWARD PENINSULA, ALASKA by Brina Kessel. 1989. University of Alaska Press. 330 pp., Hardcover \$34.95.

The Seward Peninsula is located about three-fourths of the way up Alaska's northwest coast. This text contains an annotated list of the species of this wilderness region. The first 50 pages of the book, which will be of interest to armchair geographers, includes both a brief description of avian environments, including nice black and white habitat photographs, and other material such as bird abundance, zoogeographical affinities, and seasonality. The book is not profusely illustrated but does include a dozen rather striking pen and ink drawings by John C. Pitcher.

The species accounts vary from paragraph length to a few pages. Because sections are not highlighted, finding particular pieces of information is difficult. Many data are included in the accounts, such as abundance, range, migration dates, breeding times, food, behavior, and taxonomy. People interested in learning about species of birds found in Alaska should not overlook this book; it is essential for birders actually visiting the Seward Peninsula. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen 57401.*

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS An Identification Guide and Handbook. Angela Turner and Chris Rose. 1989. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 258 pp. \$35.00 hardcover.

Few publications have dealt with this interesting family of birds with the scope that this book does. Although the book is called an identification guide, chances are you will never be able to observe all 75 species of the family Hirundinidae described and illustrated. This fact, plus the book's price may discourage many readers from placing this volume in their library. However I highly recommend this book to those interested in the natural history and worldwide status of this family.

Chapters on Hirundinidae morphology and plumage, classification, distribution and migration, food, behavior, breeding biology, and populations begin the book. Each individual species account gives the reader more concise information on field characteristics, habitat, voice, races, sociosexual behavior, and hybridization. Lifelike color plates of each species illustrate adult and juvenile plumages. Range maps opposite each plate show nonbreeding, breeding, and wintering sites.

Interestingly, even with the vast amount of information gathered on this family in the last few decades, little is known about the life histories of some species. For instance, the beautiful White-eyed River Martin is known only from a small wintering site in Thailand, and the Red Sea Swallow is known from only a single specimen. I learned several new things about the behavior of the Tree Swallow, a bird I have worked with while managing the Waubay Bluebird Trail. The book provides up-to-date information on all 9 species found in the continental United States making an excellent reference for those interested in our native species. An extensive 21 page bibliography lists all references cited in the text.

Whether you are an armchair birdwatcher interested in birds of the world or a serious student of ornithology, I recommend this book. *Dennis Skadsen, RR Box 113 Grenville 57239.*

BLUEBIRDS IN THE UPPER MIDWEST A Guide to Successful Trail Management. Dorene H. Scriven. 1989. Bluebird Recovery Committee of the Audubon Chapter, Minneapolis. 178 pp. \$9.50 paper.

Many of the recently published books and articles written on the Eastern Bluebird have had a slight bias toward the southern range of the species or have been little more than recruitment bulletins for various wildlife organizations. This volume is a definitive text on managing bluebirds in the northern part of the species range. As noted in the book, very little literature existed on the bluebird's life history and management in the upper midwest, a problem the fledgling Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota undertook in 1978. In 1983, a cooperative venture began between the Bluebird Recovery Program and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to fund continuing work in the Eastern Bluebirds' recovery in the state where in 1979 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considered the species "very rare." The product of that cooperative venture is the publication of this book and the funding for on-site surveys of 33 bluebird trails in 26 counties.

Chapters on bluebird natural history, nest boxes, creating nest box trails, monitoring nests, problems and predators, and food, are well written. The chapter on nest boxes provides plans for 7 box designs. Ample information is given for each design, including heat resistance, placement, mounting, and guarding against predation. An excellent key for determining nestling mortality and predation is provided in the chapter Predators,

Parasites, and Problems. Excellent color photographs (some of the clearest and sharpest I have ever seen) provide a key for identifying the eggs and nest composition of all species which might be encountered nesting on a bluebird trail. Other photographs will help the trail monitor to determine nestling age, parasites, and illustrate further clues to determine predation.

The book stresses the need for constant trail monitoring. All too often bluebird houses are placed by well-intentioned organizations only to become further nest sites for the English Sparrow or fall into a state of disrepair. The need for further experimentation and research is also stressed by the author.

An added bonus of the book is the timely and current information on the tick borne Lyme Disease which threatens the well being of all outdoor enthusiasts. Also of use are several blank pages provided throughout the book for further notes. An appendix lists addresses of conservation organizations involved with bluebird recovery and individuals or companies which sell prebuilt or kit-form bluebird nest boxes. Information on trapping English Sparrows is also given. An excellent bibliography provides those interested with further information on bluebirds.

The only fault this reviewer can find with the book is that too little information is given on ageing and sexing nestlings. Photographs showing the difference in female and male nestlings at an advanced age would have been useful as well as a key to determine age/sex.

This book is a must for anyone involved in planning or managing a bluebird nest box trail. Copies of the book can be obtained by writing the Bluebird Recovery Program, P.O. Box 566, Minneapolis, MN 55458. *Dennis Skadsen, Grenville, SD 57239.*

Sierra Club Books for Children

According to the dust jacket of one of these books, "The Sierra Club's new publishing program for Children, in conjunction with Little, Brown and Company is intended to bring to young people books about the earth, its creatures, and humankind's role among them....these books look at the world with the eyes of the young...." With help from my own children, I wrote the following reviews. Because of the many books in this series, more of them will be reviewed in future issues.

The Dolphins and Me by Don C. Reed. \$14.95. Hardbound. 135 pages.

This book is wonderful. It is nonfiction about a dolphin-trainer and the animals that he is training. The black and white illustrations are enjoyable and add to the quality of the book.

One of my favorite parts is when the trainer first enters the dolphin pool and the dolphins investigate him. You meet the dolphins and find out what they are like. One dolphin is aggressive, one almost seems feminine, and one is the leader who beats up the aggressive one.

The book vividly describes the personalities of the characters involved, people and animals alike. In time you forget you are reading about dolphins, not people. This is a book kids will enjoy.--*David Tallman*

The View From the Oak by Judith and Herbert Kohl. \$13.95. Hardbound. 112 pages.

An interesting book, it talks about things you don't normally stop to think about. The chapters talk about different things, like what everything looks like from an animal's point of view, an animal's sense of time, how plants move, and the life cycle of a tick. I liked the detailed illustrations.

I especially enjoyed the part on the tick because I learned something new. After mating, the female climbs a tree and waits for something warm to come by. She can tell this by vibrations in the air and sounds. Once something the right temperature comes by, she drops from the tree and pumps herself full of blood. If she misses her prey, she just climbs up into the tree again.--*David Tallman*

The Wild Inside by Linda Allison \$7.95. Hardbound. 144 pages.

The Sierra Club Wayfinding Book by Viki McVey. \$13.95. Hardbound. 88 pages.

To an adult, these two books seem to be great. David wrote about the wayfinding book, "This is a very informative book containing many fun experiments to help explain the text. It explains in detail how to find your way and also has games to help you understand wayfinding. This book is very good." Yet David was neither motivated to read the whole book or try his hand at actual wayfinding. This is the type of book that parents enjoy giving their children (unless, of course the parents *want* to lose their kids in the forest). Apparently, however, it will take active participation by the adults to get the kids interested.

The Wild Inside is a book of fabulous indoor projects. But, again, this is the sort of book that needs motivation from elders, the kids seemed disinclined to pick it up on their own, despite many wild and creative ideas. You would think kids would be crazy about adopting a spider, growing mold, or studying plant breath. Many addresses for things to mail away for, like booklets and posters, are also included. Parents might do well to buy this book for themselves--they may even enjoy these projects during our Dakota winters. *Dan Tallman*

The BIG Calendar. Sierra Club Children's Calendar 1990 by David Peters.

"This calendar is really big (13 x 30.5 inches) with great and interesting pictures. My favorites are the the desert Jackrabbit--the huge ears are about 7 inches long--and the Saber-toothed Cat because I like cats (although I'm glad this one is extinct). I hope I get another BIG Calendar next year." Jon, age 9, gave this colorful calendar his seal of approval. Because of the varied nature of the large animal drawings, ranging from common animals to extinct dinosaurs, the children enjoyed having this calendar on their wall. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen SD 57401.*

THE 1989-1990 WINTER SEASON REPORT

by Dennis Skadsen
RR Box 113 Grenville 57239

Mild was the word to describe the weather during the period. Temperatures were well above normal during all three months. The only cold snap occurred in mid-December and many birds (note the Eastern Bluebirds observed at Pickerel Lake) attempted to overwinter and apparently survived the season. Precipitation was below normal for most of the state, however the Black Hills received more snow than the previous three to four years.

It looked to be the winter for the much awaited finch invasion, but by the end of December most finches had moved out of the state and observations remained spotty the rest of the period. Gems for the season include the Gyrfalcon sighted in Davison County, and the Laughing Gull observed on the Missouri river in Yankton Co. Both observations have been reported to the Rare Birds Records Committee.

Abbreviations used in this report: **WNWR** - Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day Co.; **SLNWR** - Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Brown Co. (Todd Frerichs, Mark Heisinger, Steve Young). Other observers cited in this report:

Barbara Bernstein (BB)

Ken Graupmann (KG)

Willis Hall (WH)

Bruce K. Harris (BKH)

Jan Kieckhefer (JK)

Robert Kieckhefer (RWK)

Lester R. Lauritzen (LRL)

Jim McLaird (JDM)

Ernest E. Miller (EEM)

Marjorie J. Parker (MJP)

SNOW GOOSE - 28 February, Brookings Co., 250 (JK&RWK)

CANADA GOOSE - 7 January, Roberts Co., 500 wintering Big Stone Power Plant cooling pond (BKH).

WOOD DUCK - 27 January, Lawrence Co. (RAP).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - 5 December, Yankton Co., 9 (WH).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - 20 February, Brookings Co., 2, considered a rare migrant (DR).

MALLARD - 7 January, Roberts Co., 300 wintering on Big Stone Power Plant cooling pond (BKH).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - All period, Meade Co. (EEM).

LESSER SCAUP - 10 January, Yankton Co., 3 (BKH).

BUFFLEHEAD - 10 January, Yankton Co. (BKH).

BALD EAGLE - 6 December, Brown Co. (SLNWR). 11 February, Hutchinson Co., 3 adults (RGR, JDM).

NORTHERN HARRIER - 9 December, Yankton Co. (WH).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - Reported from Brookings, Day, and Yankton counties.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 8 December, Yankton Co. (WH). 3 January, Deuel Co. (BKH). 10 January, Yankton Co. (BKH, SVS). 8 January, 25 February, Fall River Co. (RAP). 18 February, Brown Co. (DAT).

MERLIN - 14 January, Brookings Co. (DR). 21 January, Brown Co., Richmond Lake State Park (DGP). 5 February, Yankton Co., found dead on road (BS fide WH).

PEREGRINE FALCON - 7 December, Edmunds Co. (SLNWR).

GYRFALCON - 17 December, Davison Co., one white phase bird (RGR, JDM).

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE - 27 February, Day Co., 3 (WNWR).
LAUGHING GULL - 10 January, Yankton Co., **second record for state**, to be reviewed by Rare Bird Committee (BKH, SVS).
GLAUCOUS GULL - 9 December, Yankton Co. (WH).
MOURNING DOVE - 2 December, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, 2 (DRS). 17-18 February, Clay Co. (LRL).
SNOWY OWL - 5 December, Brown Co. (SLNWR). 25 January, Day Co. (WNWR). 4 February, Roberts Co. (BKH). 11 February, Brown Co. (DGP).
LONG-EARED OWL - 16 December, Brown Co. (DAT, DGP).
SHORT-EARED OWL - All through period, Day Co. (DRS). 18 February, Brown Co., 2 (DGP).
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 12 January, Brown Co. (DGP).
BELTED KINGFISHER - 7 January, Roberts Co. (BKH). 27 January, Lawrence Co. (RAP).
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - Pair all period Roberts Co. (BKH). 7 January, Brown Co., Richmond Lake State Park (DGP). 20 January, Davison Co., 1 (RGR).
PILEATED WOODPECKER - 15 January, Roberts Co., Sodak Park (BKH).
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - 3 December, Brookings Co., 3 (JK&RWK). 4 December, Roberts Co. (BKH). 4 January, Codington Co. (BKH). 20 January, to 27 February, Brookings Co. (DR). All period Day Co., Pickerel Lake (DRS).
BROWN CREEPER - 2 January, Brown Co. (DGP). 20 January, to 12 February, Brookings Co. (DR). 28 January, Brookings Co. (RWK). 24 February, Day Co. (WNWR).
CANYON WREN - 8 January, 25 February, Fall River Co. (RAP).
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - 14 December, Brookings Co. (JK).
EASTERN BLUEBIRD - 4 December, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, 4 (BKH). 30 December, Day Co., Pickerel Lake, 3 (DRS).
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD - 1 December, Jackson Co., 5 (KG).
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE - 27 December, Day Co., Pickerel Lake (DRS). 7 January, Beadle Co., 2 (RGR, JDM). 11 February, Brown Co., Richmond Lake State Park (DGP).
BOHEMIAN WAXWING - 4 December, Day Co., Pickerel Lake (BKH). 19 January, Fall River Co., 30 (RAP).
NORTHERN SHRIKE - 1, 28 December, 4 January, Custer Co. (MJP). 7 January, Brown Co. (DGP). 26 February, Sanborn Co., 1 (RGR). 27 February, Brookings Co. (DR). Observed in Brookings and Deuel counties (BKH).
HARRIS SPARROW - 3 December, Roberts Co. (BKH, BB). 16,20 December, Brookings Co. (JK). 2 February, Yankton Co. (WH). 11 February, Hutchinson Co., 3 (RGR, JDM).
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD - 1 February, Clay Co., 8 (LRL).
WESTERN MEADOWLARK - 25 December, Deuel Co. (BKH).
RUSTY BLACKBIRD - 27 February, Brookings Co. (DR). Observed in Deuel and Roberts counties (BKH).
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - 7 January, Jerauld Co., 2 (RGR, JDM).
COMMON GRACKLE - 30 December, Roberts Co. (BKH).
PINE GROSBEAK - 27 December, Day Co., Pickerel Lake (DRS). 27 December, through period, Brown Co. (DAT).
HOUSE FINCH - 26 December, to 24 February, Yankton Co., peak of 10 (WH). 8 February, Brookings Co. (DR).
RED CROSSBILL - 24 February, Custer Co., 2 (MJP).
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - Reported all period Brookings Co. 4 December, Day Co., Pickerel Lake; 4 January, Codington Co., 30 (BKH). 17 December, Davison Co., 12 (RGR, JDM). 22 January, Brown Co., 5 (DGP). 2 February, Custer Co., 12-15 (DW).
COMMON REDPOLL - Reported from Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Custer, Day (4 flocks of 400 birds total), Deuel, and Roberts counties.
PINE SISKIN - Reported from Brown, Brookings and Custer counties.

THE 1989/90 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Compiled by Dan Tallman
Northern State University, Aberdeen 57401

ABERDEEN (ABR): 16 December 1989, 12 observers, temperature -15 to + 8° F., snow cover 2-4 inches, compiler Everett Montgomery. BROOKINGS (BRK): 16 December 1989, 12 observers, temperature -1 to + 12° F., no snow, compiler Nelda Holden. DEUEL CO. (DUE): 3 January 1990, 3 observers, temperature 20-33° F., very little snow, wind 10-12 mph, compiler Bruce Harris. HOT SPRINGS (HOT): 16 December 1989, 4 observers, no temperature data, compiler Richard Peterson. MADISON (MAD): 21 December 1989, 14 observers, 20° F., compiler Dave Gilbert. PIERRE (PIR): 17 December 1989, 22 observers, weather not reported, compiler R. V. Summerside. RAPID CITY (RAP): 17 December 1989, number of observers not reported, -6 to +3° F., wind 0-10 mph, compiler Esther Serr. SAND LAKE (SAN): 27 December 1989, 9 observers, temperature 20-40° F., snow cover 1 inch, wind calm, compiler William Schultze. SIOUX FALLS (SOU): 16 December 1989, 12 observers, temperature -7 to +18° F., snow 3-4 in, light winds, compiler Mark Skadsen. STURGIS (STR): 16 December 1989, 0° F., deep snow, compiler Ernest E. Miller. WAUBAY (WAU): 18 December 1989, number of observers and weather not reported, compiler Connie L. Mueller. WILMOT (WIL): 30 December 1989, 6 observers, temperature 20-26° F., snow cover spotty, winds 10-12 mph, compiler Bruce Harris. YANKTON (YAN): 30 December 1989, 12 observers, temperature 22-31° F., patches of snow, no wind, compiler Willis Hall.

	ABR	BRK	DUE	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIO	STR	WAU	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
Western Grebe						1								1
Great Blue Heron							1							1
Snow Goose					10									10
Canada Goose	2			485	1250	8825	5		14	182		121		10584
Wood Duck							3							3
Green-winged Teal							7							7
Mallard	150	822		566	575	2420	1505		21	146			5334	11632
Northern Pintail							1							1
Northern Shoveler											1			1
Gadwall					1		118						37	156
American Wigeon				1		1	97							99
Ring-necked Duck							2							2
Lesser Scaup													6	6
Common Goldeneye						45	99						7	151
Barrow's Goldeneye							2							2
Bufflehead							18							18
Hooded Merganser						1								1
Common Merganser						45	24						115	184
Duck sp.										14				14
Bald Eagle				2	2	18	6	3		7			27	65
Northern Harrier				1										1
Sharp-shinned Hawk						2	2		1	1		1	1	6
Accipiter sp.										1				1
Red-tailed Hawk		1		1		1	2		14				8	27
Ferruginous Hawk							2	3						5
Rough-legged Hawk				1	1	2	7			1			2	14
Buteo sp.													1	1
Golden Eagle	3			2		1	1			6				13
Eagle sp.										3				3
American Kestrel		4			4		1		4	1			7	21
Merlin	1			1								1		3
Prairie Falcon				1		1				1				3

	ABR	BRK	DUE	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	SIO	STR	WAU	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
Gray Partridge		17	22		13				14	8	5	13		92
Ring-nk. Pheasant	83	240	11	13	58	55	14	92	48		47	35	55	749
Sharp-tailed Grouse				32		21	18			6				77
Wild Turkey				61		82	112			88			58	401
Northern Bobwhite													41	41
American Coot							1							1
Common Snipe				2			2			3				7
Ring-billed Gull						13	1							14
Herring Gull						3								3
Rock Dove	122	196	92	216	96	820	427	14	325	34	32	114	62	2252
Mourning Dove		3	1											4
Eastern Screech-Owl					2									2
Great Horned Owl	5	19	4		1	4	1	8	8	3	5	2	5	63
Long-eared Owl	1			1		1								3
Belted Kingfisher		3				2	18		4				1	28
Lewis' Woodpecker										6				6
Red-hd. Woodpecker					1									1
Red-bd. Woodpecker	1					1			2		1		6	11
Downy Woodpecker	20	31	6	2	12	14	26	2	37	9	11	19	24	215
Hairy Woodpecker	10	8	2	3	2	7	18	3	12	2	2	10	11	90
Northern Flicker	11	3	1	5	3	11	11	6	4	2	2	5	24	88
Horned Lark	15	24	4	1	327	178	43			163	85	4	2	824
Gray Jay							2							2
Blue Jay	14	20	4	12	19	7	92	23	30	88	12	11	40	352
Pinyon Jay				20			65							85
Black-billed Magpie				8		12	51			7			5	83
American Crow	23	59	1	31	14		273	10	212	64	2	17	89	795
Black-cp. Chickadee	78	114	21	61	30	246	231	10	381	129	27	57	77	1462
Red-br. Nuthatch	9	12		1			55		10	28	2			115
White-br. Nuthatch	8	35	7		6	13	41	2	73	5	14	18	23	245
Brown Creeper	1	5			6	3	4		10				3	32
Canyon Wren							1							1
Eastern Bluebird						1					4			12
Townsend's Solitaire	2			37			21							60
American Robin	79	1		98	4	1002	10	43	1	2	4	1	239	1484
Bohemian Waxwing	2						10			318	1			331
Cedar Waxwing	480	15		1	20	40		30	14	1	89		65	755
Northern Shrike	2	1	1	3		4			4					16
European Starling	154	153	63	91	315	250	776	78	249	89	1	74	531	2824
Northern Cardinal	5				3				18				11	37
Rufous-sided Towhee														1
Am. Tree Sparrow	16	27	6	120	169	90	26	79	196	3	11		180	823
Chipping Sparrow						8								8
Field Sparrow								1						1
Song Sparrow							2		1					3
Harris' Sparrow	1	1					3						1	6
Dark-eyed Junco				150	34				13	162	4	8	107	498
Slate-colored Junco	41	64				40	541		63	231				980
Oregon Junco	1	1				1	48	1	11	11		1		75
White-winged Junco							516			57				573
Lapland Longspur	173	20	2	6	78	36					117	150		580
Snow Bunting			20		37	15					53	1		128
Red-winged Blackbird	2		1			56			125			2	2	188
Western Meadowlark				1		2								3
Yellow-hd. Blackbird		1												1
Rusty Blackbird						1					1	10		12
Brewer's Blackbird						6		12						18
Common Grackle	1	9			1	1	1	31				1		45
Unident. blackbird		1										6	140	147
Pine Grosbeak					4						14			18
Purple Finch	88	6			2	17					40			131
Cassin's Finch							3							3
House Finch							5							5
Red Crossbill							5				4			9
White-w. Crossbill	5	5							15					25
Common Redpoll	3	44	81		115	34		124		5	1168	108		1659
Pine Siskin	57	78		183	17	44	1049		48	313		1	255	2044
American Goldfinch	41	48			18	86	97	8	18	167	13	8	79	581
Unidentified finch														3
Evening Grosbeak				11			280			588				879
House Sparrow	1042	1566	449	148	1597	380	799	730	354	480	40	937	513	9035
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	2725	3664	779	2378	4846	14370	7892	1312	2346	3418	1799	1738	8215	55268
TOTAL FORMS	38	38	21	37	38	54	61	23	34	42	31	29	45	103

SDOU CHARTER MEMBERS, 7 OCTOBER 1989

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