

SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH
BIRD



DAKOTA
NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

In May, we hope to see publication of the revised book, *The Birds of South Dakota*. Prepublication sales have begun. In May, this hardbound book will cost \$29.95 (we do not plan to produce a soft cover edition). If you order before May, you will receive a 20% discount (cost: \$24.00 + \$1.44) and you will be sent a copy of the book as soon as it appears. When you make this prepublication order, you will enable the SDOU to meet some of its financial obligations for printing this book. An order form is inserted in this issue of *Bird Notes*. Checks made out to SDOU may be mailed to Dan Tallman, NSU Box 740, Aberdeen, SD 57401.



With the excitement about the book, we should not forget that we are entering the last years of atlasing. We still have areas that need more coverage. If you still haven't done any atlasing, you still have time to become part of this project. Contact Dick Peterson (HC 46, Box 49, Oelrichs, SD 57763) and he will give you all of the necessary information. Atlasing has proved to be an enjoyable way to sharpen birding skills. We have learned a great deal about our breeding birds through this program. I am sure more interesting aspects about our breeding birds are to be discovered.

Now is the time to be making plans to attend the spring meeting in Brookings. The dates are 24-26 May. I have never birded this area, so I am looking forward to this opportunity. These spring meetings are an excellent way of seeing South Dakota. The fall meeting will be in Pierre from 27-29 September.

I have received four lists of slides from our members. At the spring meeting, I will bring a list of the bird photographs that we still lack. If you have slides to share with us, send me a list and I will let you know which of them we can use. If you know of any members who take pictures, ask them to contact me or send me their names and addresses and I will contact them.

By the time you read this note, the spring migration should be starting. Good birding to you all. *Ken Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka, SD 57543.*

BANDING RECOVERIES OF SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS

Part 5. Wrens, chickadees, kinglets, and thrushes

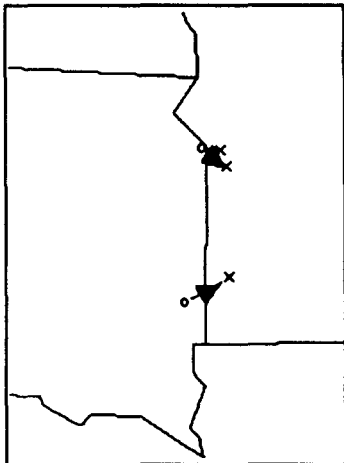
by Dan Tallman
Northern State University
Aberdeen 57401

INTRODUCTION. This article is the fifth of a series summarizing banding recoveries of South Dakota birds. I have included 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, is somewhat archaic.

METHODS AND MATERIALS. The information on these maps comes from a printout run on 5 January 1990 by the Banding Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The maps were computer generated on Map-Maker for the Macintosh by Select Micro Systems, Inc.

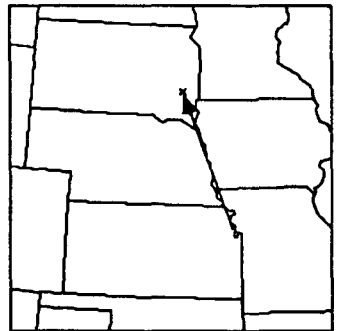
EXPLANATION OF THE MAPS. On these maps, "O" is the approximate point of banding and "X" is the approximate point of recovery. Because the Banding Office does not record exact locality data and because computer mapping is imprecise, the location points on the maps are approximate. When discrete banding 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 maps have also been ignored.

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



Black-capped Chickadee

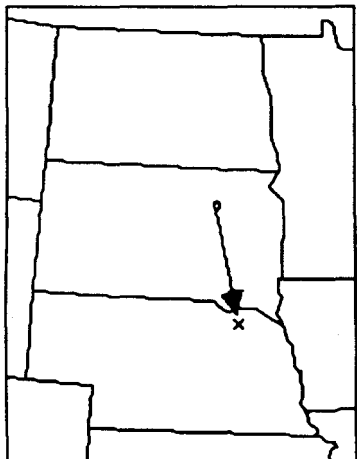
Map 46. House Wren. This bird was banded 21 May 1976 and was recovered on 26 July 1977.



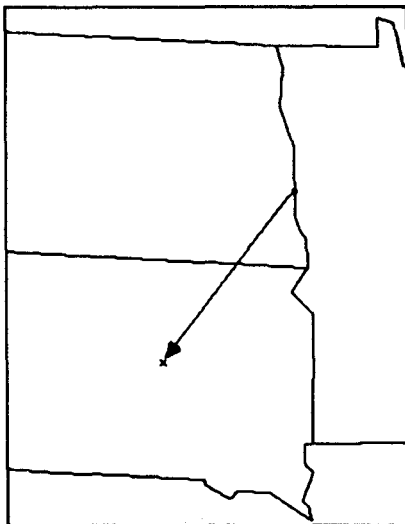
House Wren

Map 47. Black-capped Chickadee. Although chickadees almost certainly make periodic invasions from Canada, these records are probably all local wanderers.

Map 48. Golden-crowned Kinglet. This bird was banded in North Dakota on 23 October 1955 and recovered in South Dakota on 8 November 1955.



Wood Thrush



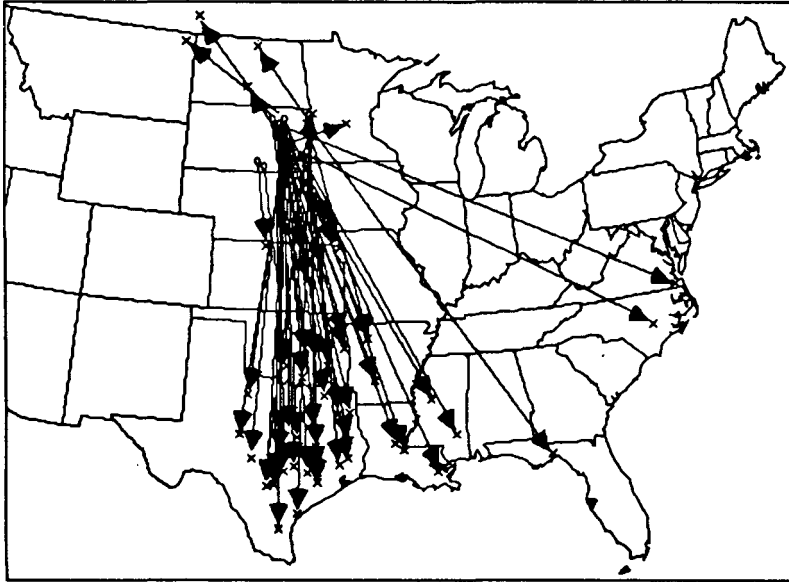
Golden-crowned Kinglet

Map 49. Wood Thrush. This thrush was banded on 26 May 1931 and was recovered on 29 May 1932.



Swainson's Thrush

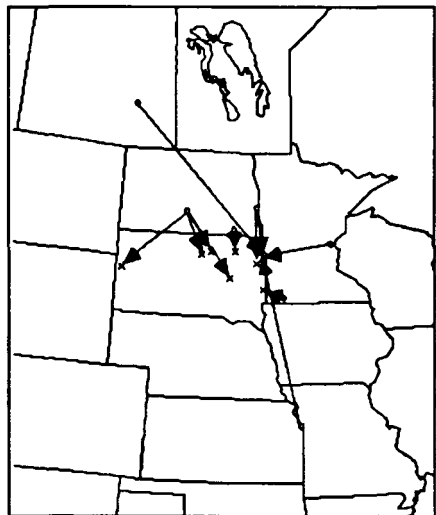
Map 50. Swainson's Thrush. I banded this bird on 19 May 1985; it was recovered on 11 April 1988.



American Robins outgoing

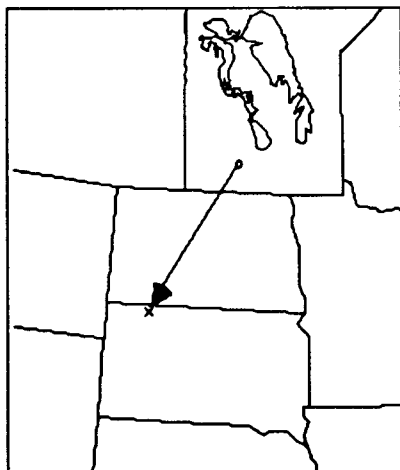
Map 51. American Robins banded in South Dakota and recovered elsewhere. About half (48%) of all recoveries were made in Texas. Two birds were banded in east-central South Dakota on 1 October 1961. One of these birds was recovered in west-central Texas on 28 November 1961; the other was found in Oklahoma on 12 December 1961. A third record was of a bird banded in northern South Dakota on 2 August 1938 and recovered near the coast of Virginia on 16 January 1939 (Did this bird winter farther south or did it migrate directly to Virginia?).

Map 52. American Robins recovered in South Dakota but banded elsewhere. One bird banded in central North Dakota is of particular interest since it was recovered southwest of the banding location; the bird was banded on 13 August 1966 and recovered on 1 May 1967, thus the bird may well have wintered in Texas or the southeast.



American Robins incoming

Map 53. Mountain Bluebird. This curious record is of a bird banded in Manitoba on 20 August 1933 and recovered in South Dakota on 20 July 1934.



Mountain Bluebird

SOUTH DAKOTA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 1990 SUMMARY

Richard A. Peterson
 HC 46 Box 49
 Oelrichs SD 57763

REGION	TOTAL PROJECT OBSERVATIONS	OBS	PO & PR	CO	TOTAL
BUTTES	1033	15	81	37	133
<p><i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Cooper's Hawk and Baird's Sparrow (PO), Wood Duck and Great Blue Heron (CO) by Paul and Virginia Springer. Virginia Rail (PO) by Richard and Jaunita Peterson.</p>					
HILLS	2630	14	49	107	171
<p><i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Sharp-shinned Hawk nest by Linda Riner. Three-toed Woodpecker (PR) by Paul and Virginia Springer. Cinnamon Teal (PO) by David Kvernes. Winter Wren (O) and Savannah Sparrow (PO) by Richard and Jaunita Peterson. Barn Owl nest and Bank Swallow (PR) by Black Hills Audubon Society, and Evening Grosbeak (PO) by Jocie Baker and Alyce Shaykett.</p>					
PLAINS	671	8	80	18	105
<p><i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Baird's Sparrows (PO) by Springers and Petersons. Sprague's Pipits (PO) by Griffiths and Petersons. Golden Eagle (CO) by Michael Melius. Short-eared Owl (PO), Mountain Bluebird (PO) and N. Mockingbird (PR) by Paul and Virginia Springer. Black-billed Cuckoo (CO) by Ernie Miller, and Mourning Dove nest with 3 eggs by Jaunita Peterson.</p>					
CHEYENNE	835	2	38	62	102
<p><i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Marbled Godwit (CO) by Ernie Miller. Short-eared Owl (PR) by Ken Graupmann. Bank Swallow (CO) and singing Yellow-throated Vireo by R. V. Summerside.</p>					

LAKOTA	1090	6	69	63	138
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Cassin's Kingbird (CO) and Eastern Meadowlark (CO), both first nests in state by Richard and Jaunita Peterson. Brewer's Blackbird (CO) by Harry Behrens.					
DIVIDE	216	2	61	11	74
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> NEED OBSERVERS					
GUMBO	373	1	45	32	78
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Killdeer nest with eggs by R. V. Summerside.					
ROSEBUD	616	7	57	63	127
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Common Poorwill nest with eggs by Doug Backlund.					
OAHE	700	6	47	63	116
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Short-eared Owl (PO) by Eileen Dowd. Swamp Sparrow and Sedge Wren by Paul and Virginia Springer. Bell's Vireo (PO) by Bob Russell.					
POTHOLE	290	5	34	52	91
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Nests of 26 species, including Chestnut-colored Longspur and Upland Sandpiper found in 10S3 by Myron Zimmer. J. David Williams found 7 Ferruginous Hawk nests.					
PRAIRIE	460	4	50	40	94
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Red Crossbill (O) and Brewer's Blackbird (PO) by Bob Russell. Baird's Sparrow (PR) by Paul and Virginia Springer.					
RANDALL	577	9	61	51	121
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Yellow-throated Vireo (PO), Whip-poor-will (PO), Piping Plover (PO), Least Tern (PR) and an immature Bald Eagle, all by Jerry Probst.					
DAKOTA	725	4	52	42	98
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Ferruginous Hawk (CO) by Robert Buckman and a Cooper's Hawk nest by J. David Williams.					
JAMES	385	7	51	27	85
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Brewer's Blackbird (CO) by Bob Russell.					
SISSE-TON	585	11	64	51	126
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Scarlet Tanager (PO) and American Avocet (CO) by Bob Russell.					
LAKES	1005	5	53	61	120
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Black Duck and Ovenbird (PO) and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (CO) by David Kvernes. Franklin's Gull and Forster's Tern (CO) by Bob Russell. Sedge Wren (PR) by Dan Brady and Ruby-throated Hummingbird (PO) by Ken Graupmann.					
RIVERS	1210	8	48	61	117
<i>HIGHLIGHTS:</i> Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak nests, Clay-colored Sparrow (CO) and Le Conte's Sparrow (PO) all by Jon Little.					
STATEWIDE PROJECT TOTALS					
	13401	20	29	187	236

GENERAL NOTES

RARE BIRDS OBSERVED IN 1989—CERULEAN WARBLER, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER AND WINTER WREN. I stepped out of the car at the Sodak cottage at Big Stone Lake on 5 June 1989 and immediately heard an unusual bird song. The call was vaguely familiar to me and, while searching for the bird, I tried to recall where I had heard it. Upon finding the Cerulean Warbler it all came back—25 May 1985, at Newton Hills State Park. The bird at Sodak was much more cooperative than the one at Newton Hills and I had fine views of the blue and white beauty as it worked through the large oak trees surrounding the cottage. It was still present, singing regularly, on the next day. The bird was probably a late migrant in route to its Minnesota nesting grounds. The Cerulean Warbler was new for my Roberts Co. list, giving me a total of 28 species of warblers recorded in the county. Twenty-six of those warblers were found on the two acres of woodlands at Sodak Park!

A new bird was also located for the Deuel Co. list in 1989—a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on 24 August 1989 at Clear Lake. It was observed for less than a minute as it flitted continually through the trees along the lake. Although the view was very short, I clearly saw the unique silhouette of the small bird, noting its long tail with a flash of white along the outer tail feathers; the distance was only about 15–20 yards. The gnatcatcher was moving with a mixed group of warblers. I was unable to locate it again, spending nearly half an hour at the locale. Gnatcatchers have been reported in increasing numbers during the past five years, especially in Brookings and Lincoln counties.

I found the Winter Wren on two occasions in 1989. This bird is not reported in South Dakota. On 17 April 1989, while birding the NeSoDak Lutheran Outdoor Camp in Day Co., I flushed a Winter Wren from a thick hedge within 25 yards of Enemy Swim Lake. This date is early for the species. My only earlier record for South Dakota was 9 April 1974. The temperature was close to freezing, with strong north winds blowing 20–25 mph, and the bird gave me only one look before it disappeared around the buildings, not to be relocated. Another Winter Wren was observed on 3 May near Lake Francis, Deuel Co. The location was in a large woodlot of mixed deciduous trees, including some fine large maples, a favorite spot for migrating sparrows, warblers, and various other species. *Bruce Harris, Box 605, Clear Lake, SD 57226.*

VARIED THRUSH, SMITH'S LONGSPUR AND GROUSE IN MARSHALL COUNTY. From September through mid-November 1989, I surveyed birds in northwest Marshall Co. for a large Air Force project. My colleagues and I recorded many thousands of birds during the survey, but none was more unexpected than the Varied Thrush that John Young found on 28 September. The bird was in a large shelterbelt adjacent to the Cyril Hastings' farm, 10 miles east and 3 miles north of Hecla. John enjoyed a good view of the thrush, and his description of the bird was convincing, except that the bird was high in a tree. I was skeptical but looked for it at once. I did not find it until the next day, close to the location described by John (and 35 feet up in a cottonwood!). Several robins were in the same area and I had

nice views of both species for about ten minutes. The Varied Thrush was a well-marked female.

I found a group of about 20 Smith's Longspurs near Mary's Slough on 11 October 1989. They were in an unvegetated fallow field. The very fine, dry soil was littered with small stones and pebbles. Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs were associated with the Smith's Longspurs. I clearly saw the Smith's Longspurs' buffy breasts and sometimes also the white on the wings. I repeatedly heard the Smith's characteristic call. I am familiar with the species, having observed it in northeastern South Dakota (in Roberts, Grand, and Deuel counties) many times (SDBN 26:15). John Young and Steve Van Sickle observed these birds at a later date. Subsequently, until 26 October, I found Smith's Longspurs at four different sites in Marshall Co. I was interested to read in *The Loon* (61:200-201) that Minnesota birders found large flocks of Smith's Longspurs in Wilkin and Clay counties in Minnesota, about 100 miles northeast of Marshall Co. The species is of regular occurrence in northeastern South Dakota, especially in the fall.

My colleagues and I saw Sharp-tailed Grouse regularly during the fall. A few prairie-chickens were also seen, and we were told that booming grounds exist in several areas of Marshall Co. I look forward to checking these reports in the future. *Bruce Harris, Box 605, Clear Lake, SD 57226.*

CAROLINA WREN IN HURON. I saw a Carolina Wren in Huron on 20 March 1990. I heard a scratching in the leaves about 15 meters in front of my car. This noise attracted my attention because this behavior is uncommon in the usual wintering birds. A small bird with a bright brown cap was the culprit. I immediately thought that it was a wren. The bird had an obvious light eye stripe, a long bill, brown underparts, and a wren-like attitude. The bird was slightly smaller than a House Sparrow. I saw the bird for about two minutes, and was able to get glimpses of it through my 7x35 binoculars. I was reasonably certain of the bird's identity when it flew to an adjacent yard and sang the diagnostic "je do wet, je do wet, je do wet" song of the Carolina Wren. I never found the wren again. *James L. Howitz, Huron University, Huron SD 57350.*

SISKINS AND HOUSE FINCHES NEST IN HURON. Pine Siskins and House Finches nested in Huron in 1990. Several pairs of siskins were present in Huron during the 1990 spring. On 27 March, a female siskin carried nesting material to a nest 1.5 m up in a small spruce in front of an apartment building. On 10 and 17 April, she was incubating three eggs. On 23 April, the nest held three young about five days post hatching. A violent thunderstorm on the night of 25 April soaked the nest and the next morning all the young were dead, presumably of hypothermia.

I did not notice House Finches in Huron during the winter, although they were present in the summer and fall of 1989. This absence is not unreasonable, because many House Finches in the eastern US are migratory. On 1 March 1990, I found a male and female, apparently paired. On 10 April, a female was building a nest 7 m up in a large spruce tree, while the male sang nearby. On 17 April, two or three males and four females were near the nest. The 25 April storm apparently also ended this nesting attempt. On 11 May, a female House Finch was constructing another nest about 80 m from the first nest. *James L. Howitz, Huron University, Huron SD 57350.*

TWO NOTABLE BANDING RECOVERIES. A Pine Siskin I banded in Aberdeen on 18 March 1988 was recovered by D. Murray MacKay in Ponoka, Alberta, on 25 August 1989. The distance between point of banding and recovery is about 860 miles (see Figure 1). In South Dakota, 1989 was a year with few siskins. This recovery supports Project FeederWatch data that suggest that siskins remained in Canada in 1989 (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, SDBN 41:28-29). Although siskins migrate from South Dakota to Alberta, this record is the first of a bird banded in South Dakota and recovered in that province (USFWS Files). For a summary of other siskin recoveries, see SDBN 42:-55-59.

On 3 November 1989, at my banding station in Aberdeen, I recaptured a Slate-colored Junco that I originally banded on 12 November 1985. The bird, banded as an adult, was over four years old. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

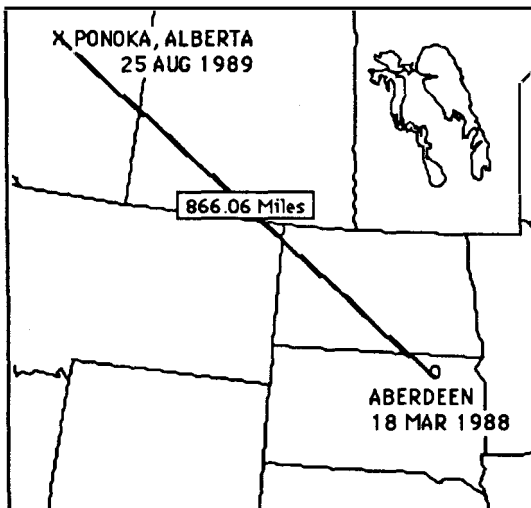


Figure 1. Pine Siskin recovery.

WHITNEY 1990 BANDING REPORT. In 1990 I banded 267 individuals of 15 species, including three junco races:

Sora Rail	1	Slate-colored	20
Barn Owl	5	Oregon	2
Blue Jay	4	White-throated Sparrow	1
Black-capped Chickadee	21	White-crowned Sparrow	25
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	Harris' Sparrow	1
Spotted Towhee	9	Common Grackle	4
Chipping Sparrow	3	Red Crossbill	2
Dark-eyed Junco	60	Common Redpoll	2
White-winged	38	Pine Siskin	123

Two species proved to be of particular interest. Five nestling Barn Owls were banded at Oral, Fall River County. One Black-capped Chickadee banded in October 1986 was retrapped in September 1990, making the bird at least four years old. Another chickadee, banded in February 1988, was retrapped in October 1990, making it at least three years old. By mid-November, I was trapping almost all chickadees already banded, suggesting that I had already banded the local population. *N. R. Whitney, 633 Berry Pines Road, Rapid City, SD 57702.*

UNUSUAL NUMBER OF RAPTORS IN MARSHALL COUNTY DURING THE 1989 FALL MIGRATION. During a 12-week period from late August through late November 1989, I worked on a government project in Marshall Co. doing intensive surveys of birds. A variety of census techniques were used, but most of the observations were made from fixed stations for extended periods of time and at various times of day. A seven-man crew of

biologists was employed. Needless to say, many thousands of birds were recorded.

A rather impressive number of raptors was recorded. I detail here only the birds I personally saw. It is impossible to know how many duplicate sightings were made from day to day, but we made a special effort to avoid duplications. Many raptors were observed by the crew on four to five different locations 3-20 miles apart on the same day, and I believe that most of the sightings represent different birds migrating through the area.

Northern Goshawk—Only 1 bird, on 10 November.

Cooper's Hawk—Definite identification on 4 September; possibly also on 12 and 22 September. Several Cooper's Hawks were reported by other crew members.

Rough-legged Hawk—Four birds seen during the period.

Ferruginous Hawk—Single bird observed on 4 September.

Northern Harrier—Surprisingly, very few observed, latest on 25 Nov.

Swainson's Hawk—Quite common through mid-October.

Red-tailed Hawk—Fairly common but not as many as I expected. A heavy flight was recorded during my 6-hour shift on 22 September. Birds were moving on a very strong 35-40 mph wind, on a cold, partly cloudy day. Most birds were very high overhead, and really moving; I could not identify more than a portion of the birds I saw, but the majority were red-tails. A few birds dropped down to hunt while moving south. I recorded 75-80 birds total. There were hawks in sight almost continuously and I could have overlooked as many as I counted.

Bald Eagle—I saw an immature on 4 November and 3 (1 adult) on 8 Nov.

Osprey—19 and 21 November; 2 birds.

American Kestrel—A few regularly seen, but not in numbers that I anticipated.

Merlin—4 and 5 September; I believe three individuals were present.

Prairie Falcon—From 6 September through 20 November, I recorded 11 definite Prairie Falcons, including one eating a robin. Fourteen unidentified falcons were observed during this period, most of which were very likely this species. Other crew members also regularly saw falcons which were probably this species.

Peregrine Falcon—Definite observation on 2 September and very likely two more on 24 October.

Bruce Harris, Box 605, Clear Lake, SD 57226.

SKADSEN 1990 BANDING REPORT. The following report covers birds banded under permit 22127 during the calendar year 1990. All species except Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds were banded at Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area in Day Co. All Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows were banded on the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, also in Day Co. A total of 781 individuals of 58 species were banded during the year. A table of significant recaptures is at the end of the following list.

Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Least Flycatcher	6
Mourning Dove	2	Tree Swallow	17
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Black-capped Chickadee	28
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Downy Woodpecker	4	White-breasted Nuthatch	7
Hairy Woodpecker	1	House Wren	8
Northern Flicker	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	Common Yellowthroat	3
Eastern Bluebird	38	Wilson's Warbler	5
Swainson's Thrush	12	Canada Warbler	1
American Robin	23	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
Gray Catbird	12	American Tree Sparrow	8
Brown Thrasher	6	Chipping Sparrow	15
Cedar Waxwing	19	Clay-colored Sparrow	6
Northern Shrike	1	Song Sparrow	21
Solitary Vireo	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	5
Warbling Vireo	5	Swamp Sparrow	2
Philadelphia Vireo	2	White-throated Sparrow	46
Red-eyed Vireo	3	White-crowned Sparrow	11
Tennessee Warbler	10	Harris' Sparrow	73
Orange-crowned Warbler	7	Dark-eyed Junco	146
Yellow Warbler	17	Common Grackle	70
Magnolia Warbler	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	14	Orchard Oriole	3
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	Northern Oriole	3
American Redstart	3	Purple Finch	15
Worm-eating Warbler	1	Common Redpoll	32
Ovenbird	1	Pine Siskin	1
Northern Waterthrush	6	American Goldfinch	41

band number	species	original banding date	date of recapture
1770-72861	House Wren	29 Jul 89	25 May 90
8001-25153	Gray Catbird	20 Jul 89	26 May 90
8001-25162	Gray Catbird	4 Aug 89	28 May 90
8001-25070	Gray Catbird	7 Aug 88	22 Jul 90
1043-80751	Brown Thrasher	26 Aug 89	20 May 90
1770-72988	Nashville Warbler	26 Aug 89	19 Aug 90
1770-72804	Yellow Warbler	14 May 89	22 May 90
1770-72986	Chipping Sparrow	26 Aug 89	1 Oct 90
1411-47291	Song Sparrow	19 Aug 89	21 Apr 90
1770-89720	Slate-colored Junco	22 Oct 89	22 Oct 90
1043-80700	Common Grackle	30 Apr 89	7 Apr 90
1043-80645	Common Grackle	23 Apr 88	15 Apr 90
1043-80662	Common Grackle	May 15 88	6 May 90
1043-80627	Common Grackle	23 Apr 88	7 May 90
1770-72531	American Goldfinch	20 Aug 88	21 Jul 90
1770-72834	American Goldfinch	12 Jul 89	25 May 90
1770-72525	American Goldfinch	7 Aug 88	18 Aug 90

Dennis Skadsen RR Box 113 Grenville, SD 57239

BOOK REVIEWS

ATLAS OF WINTERING NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS: AN ANALYSIS OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATA by Terry Root. 1988. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 336 pp. Cloth. \$60.00 Softbound. \$35.00

ATLAS OF NEARCTIC SHOREBIRDS ON THE COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA VOLUME 1 AND 2 by R.I.G. Morrison and R.K. Ross. 1989. Canadian Wildlife Service Special Publication, Ottawa. Volume 1 128 pp. Volume 2 325 pp. Softbound.

In recent years atlasing has been widely used to show distribution of breeding species in North America. With the addition of these volumes the winter distribution of many of these same birds has been presented in atlas form. For the *Atlas of Wintering North American Birds* the author has taken data collected by probably the largest group of field workers anywhere, the 38,000+ participants of over 1000 annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts from the winter of 1962/63 to 1971/72. Data from all Christmas counts in southern Canada and the contiguous United States were used to make contour and three-dimensional maps showing winter distribution and abundance of species observed. Eleven transparent overlays are provided, which, when placed over the maps, detail information such as state and provincial boundaries, elevation, vegetation, and count locations. Short species accounts give information on winter ecology, habitat, and environmental factors that influence the birds' winter distributions. In most cases, the maps accompany species accounts. In instances where too few records exist or the plotted maps would present misleading distribution or abundance patterns, the maps appear in Appendix B. In the book's introduction, the author details the problems encountered in translating CBC data into map form. Appendix A lists all 508 species included in the atlas, giving information on the number of recording sites for the species, maximum abundance and notes on species mapped in Appendix B. An excellent literature cited is found at the end of the book.

I disagree with the winter range of the Pileated Woodpecker, shown to include central South Dakota, the Red-bellied Woodpecker, shown to occur in the Black Hills, and the Chipping and Field Sparrows, shown to occur in the south-central part of the state. The woodpecker records appear to be based on single observations during Christmas counts. Whitney et al., *Birds of South Dakota*, lists both species of sparrows as accidental in winter. These are slight errors, however, when one considers the wealth of accurate information contained in this book.

With the continuing destruction of habitat in North and South America, this volume, the first of its kind published, will provide an important benchmark and reference for future studies. The book will also serve as a guidebook for South Dakota birders interested in studying and observing species that they are familiar with during the breeding season and migration but not familiar with in their winter habitat. The book also provides valuable information on species abundance and distribution in South Dakota. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in this little studied aspect of ornithology and those dedicated Christmas counters who on many a sub-zero day asked, "Why am I doing this?"

Contained in two volumes, the *Atlas of Nearctic Shorebirds on the Coast of South America* provides valuable and interesting information on 27 species that breed in Canada and winter in South America. The five-

year South American Shorebird Atlas Project was conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service Latin American Program. The purpose of the study was to identify principle wintering areas used by nearctic shorebirds along South American coastlines. Aerial surveys were conducted during the months of January and February from 1982 through 1986 and more than 2.9 million shorebirds were counted. It was discovered during these surveys that a relatively small number of sites supported the majority of wintering shorebirds. The most important wintering areas were found along the north coast with nearly 85.6% of the counted birds found there.

The chapters in Volume 1 cover an introduction, methods, overview, shorebird distribution and coastal environments in South America, and international conservation of shorebirds. By far, the overview chapter is the most interesting of this volume. Through species accounts, tables and distribution maps the authors discuss findings of the atlas project on a continental scope. This chapter is printed in four languages; English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Volume 2 contains a more detailed account of shorebird distribution by country. Chapters 6 through 15 contain tables and maps showing species' distributions and abundance, discussion of the countries' general geography, and detailed descriptions of the coastal areas surveyed. Chapters in both volumes have literature cited sections.

This book will be of interest to all those concerned about the plight of migratory shorebirds and conservation in general. Most of the species described in the atlas migrate through South Dakota, and a few, such as the Willet, nest in the state. Destruction of wintering and staging areas has the potential for disrupting the whole migratory pattern of these birds. By identifying these areas, the authors have contributed to a growing international effort in conservation of these birds. *Dennis Skadsen RR Box 113 Grenville, SD 57239*

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF COSTA RICA by F. Gray Stiles and Alexander F Skutch. 1989. Cornell University Press, Ithaca. 511 pp. Cloth. \$65.00 Softbound. \$35.00

This book is a field guide to the birds of Costa Rica. Species accounts include a description, habits, voice, nest, status, and range. Fifty-two color plates by Dana Gardner grace the text's center. With this book in hand, the birder should be adequately armed to identify the birds of this Central American country.

A rather comprehensive 60-page introduction precedes the species' accounts. Included are geographical and political maps, along with descriptions of the country's varied habitats. The habitat descriptions are accompanied by a series of handsome black and white photographs of Costa Rica. A short conservation section mentions some of the ecological problems facing the birds and people of the country. I was disappointed in the omission of a guide to bird finding, such as presented in Ridgely's, *Birds of Panama*. On the other hand, the authors have included metric conversion tables, which ought to be of assistance to North American tourists, even when they are not birding.

I have little criticism of this book. Some of the color plates seem a bit crowded. As a result, judging relative size of the species can be difficult, especially when comparing species on different plates. But this problem is minor; the plates range from good to excellent.

In summary, this book is highly recommended for those interested in Central American birds. *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

THE 1990 FALL MIGRATION

compiled by Dennis Skadsen
RR Box 113, Grenville 57239

Below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures describe the weather for the period. The latter may account for the numerous late observations of several species. Some interesting nesting observations may also be due to the unseasonably warm weather. Note the observation of downy young Barn Owls still in the nest in early November. Unusual was the pair of Ospreys constructing a nest on a power pole at the Pactola Basin in Pennington Co. in late August. This is the first evidence of the species' nesting in the state since 1883!

Rare and unusual species observed during the period include the Oldsquaw seen in Sanborn Co., a Gyrfalcon observed in Deuel Co., a Pine Warbler sighted at the Badlands National Park, and a Connecticut Warbler found by Augie Hoeger at his birding hot spot called "the hole" in Sioux Falls. Abbreviations used in this report include: BNP — Badlands National Park; SLNWR — Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge; WNWR — Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

Observers cited in this report are:

Dan J. Brady (DJB)
Ken Graupmann (KG)
Willis Hall (WH)
Bruce K. Harris (BKH)
Augie Hoeger (AH)
Barry Jones (BJ)
Jan Kieckhefer (JAK)
Jon Kieckhefer (JRK)
Robert Kieckhefer (RWK)
Lester R. Lauritzen (LRL)
Jon Little (JL)
Michael M. Meltus (MMM)

Jim D. McLaird (JDM)
Ernest E. Miller (EEM)
Richard A. Peterson (RAP)
Bob Rogers (BR)
Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS)
Mark S. Skadsen (MSS)
Jerry C. Stanford (JCS)
Gary Stava (GS)
Dan A. Tallman (DAT)
Nathaniel R. Whitney (NRW)
J. David Williams (JDW)
Joe Zarki (JZ)

Common Loon — 20 November, Yankton Co. (WH).

Pied-billed Grebe — 23 August, WNWR, 926 (WNWR). 23 November, Yankton Co. (WH).

Least Bittern — 12 August, Yankton Co., 2 adults, 2 immatures (WH).

Great Blue Heron — 13 November, Yankton Co. (WH).

Great Egret — 13 August, Kingsbury Co., 35 (BKH). 17 September, WNWR (WNWR). 30 September, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).

Snowy Egret — 12 August, SLNWR, 4 (JCS). 13 August, Kingsbury Co., 2 (BKH). 30 September, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).

Cattle Egret — 13 August, Kingsbury Co., 25 (BKH). 12 September, Codington Co., 5 (WNWR). 29 September, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).

Green-backed Heron — 14 August, Yankton Co., 1 adult., 1 immature. (WH).

White-faced Ibis — 9 September, Hamlin Co. (DJB).

Tundra Swan — 25 October, Waubay Lake, Day Co., 800 (WNWR). 3 November, SLNWR, peak of 5500 (SLNWR). 16, 20 November, Fall River Co., 5, rare west river (RAP).
 Trumpeter Swan — 12 November, Fall River Co., 13 (RAP).
 Snow Goose — 3 November, SLNWR, peak of 175,000 (SLNWR).
 Ross' Goose — 13 October, Deuel Co. (BKH).
 Wood Duck — 28 November, Yankton Co., (WH).
 Green-winged Teal — 5 October, Lake Co., Milwaukee Slough, 600–800 (BKH). 12 October, Deuel Co., 400 (BKH). 19 November, Yankton Co. (WH). 22 November, Pennington Co., Canyon Lake, 22 (NRW).
 American Black Duck — 4 October, Marshall Co., 1 (WNWR).
 Northern Pintail — 5 October, Lake Co., 100 (BKH).
 Northern Shoveler — 27 November, Yankton Co., 3, very late (WH).
 Gadwall — 24 November, Deuel Co., very late for northeast (BKH).
 Canvasback — 4 November, Deuel Co., flock of 400 (BKH). 30 November, Yankton Co., **latest ever** (WH).
 Redhead — 23 August, WNWR, 1568 (WNWR).
 Greater Scaup — 4 October, Marshall Co., 7 (WNWR).
 Oldsquaw — 11 November, Sanborn Co. (BR, fide JDM).
 Surf Scoter — 26 October, Roberts Co. (BKH).
 Barrow's Goldeneye — 12 November, Pennington Co., Canyon Lake, 2 males, 1 female (JZ). 22 November, Pennington Co., Canyon Lake, 1 male (NRW).
 Hooded Merganser — 28 October, Fall River Co. (RAP). 30 October, Roberts Co., and 27 observed Deuel Co. (BKH). 13 November, Yankton Co. (WH).
 Turkey Vulture — 28 August, Meade Co., young in nest (MMM). 21 September, Fall River Co., 16 (RAP).
 Osprey — 21 August, Pennington Co., Pactola basin, pair building nest on power pole, first evidence of species nesting in the state since 1883 (RAP). 22 August, Roberts Co. (BKH). 2 September, Faulk Co. (MMM). 15 September, Jackson Co. (KG). 19, 29 September, Pennington Co. (NRW). 27 September – 6 October, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 14 November, Yankton Co., very late (WH).
 Bald Eagle — East river observations from Brown, Day, Deuel, Roberts, and Yankton counties.
 Cooper's Hawk — 1 September, WNWR (WNWR). 23 September, Fall River Co. (RAP). 8 October, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 14 October, BNP (JZ).
 Northern Goshawk — 7 August – 4 September, Custer Co., nest w/ 3 fledglings nearby (RAP). 13 October, Deuel Co. (BKH). 21 November, Tripp Co., 3 (RAP).
 Broad-winged Hawk — 21 October, Bennett Co. (JZ).
 Ferruginous Hawk — 11 September, Yankton Co., 2 (WH). 7 October, Yankton Co. (NRW).
 Rough-legged Hawk — 23 October, Kingsbury Co. (DJB). 28 October, Day Co., dark morph (DRS). 28 October, Deuel Co., 5 (BKH).
 Golden Eagle — 24 October, 14 November, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).
 Merlin — 9 September, BNP (BJ). 12 October, Roberts Co. (BKH). 1 November, Day Co., 2 (DRS). 29 November, Edmunds Co. (JDW).
 Gyrfalcon — 9 November, Deuel Co. (BKH).
 Prairie Falcon — 17 October, Deuel Co., 2 (BKH). 31 October, 18 November, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).
 Sharp-tailed Grouse — 24 November, WNWR, 4 (WNWR).
 Sora — 24 August, Pennington Co., immature banded (NRW).
 Sandhill Crane — 8 October, Custer Co., 2000 (MJP). 4 November, BNP, late (BNP). 11, 12, 13 November, Meade Co., 2 – 4000 each day, very late (EEM).
 Black-bellied Plover — 18 October, Edmunds Co., 2 (JDW).
 Lesser Golden-Plover — 15 October, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).
 Piping Plover — 13 August, Kingsbury Co. (BKH).
 Killdeer — 20 November, Meade Co., very late (EEM).
 Greater Yellowlegs — 7 November, Deuel Co., very late (BKH).

Sanderling — 29 September, Deuel Co., 1 (BKH).
 Pectoral Sandpiper — 2 and 9 September, BNP (BJ).
 Red-necked Phalarope — 5 October, Lake Co., 2, late (BKH).
 Franklin's Gull — 11 September, Waubay Lake, Day Co., 5000 (WNWR). 21 November, Roberts Co., 1, very late (BKH).
 Bonaparte's Gull — 13 August, Kingsbury Co., 2, **earliest ever** (BKH).
 Common Barn-Owl — 14 September and 3 November, BNP and Jackson Co. (BNP). 3 November, Jackson Co., 2 downy young, **latest ever nesting** (KG).
 Snowy Owl — 1 November, Deuel Co. (BKH, GS). 12 November, SLNWR (SLNWR). 17 November, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 30 November, Meade Co. (EEM).
 Burrowing Owl — 19 October, Custer Co., late (MMM). 27 October, BNP, **latest ever** (BNP).
 Northern Saw-whet Owl — 20 September, Meade Co. (MMM). 20, 27 October, 2 November, Brown Co., 4 banded (DAT).
 Common Nighthawk — 25 August, Meade Co., 250 (EEM).
 Common Poorwill — 19 September, Meade Co. (MMM)
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird — 12 August, 23 September, Brookings Co. (JAK). 3 September, Brown Co. (JCS). 4 September, Faulk Co. (MMM). 11 September, Day Co. (DRS).
 Lewis' Woodpecker — 2 September, Pennington Co. (JDW).
 Red-bellied Woodpecker — 21 October, Lincoln Co. (JL).
 Black-backed Woodpecker — 29 August, Meade Co. (MMM). 10 November, Pennington Co. (JDW).
 Pileated Woodpecker — 5, 7-9, 26 August and 28 September, Roberts Co., Sodak Park (BKH).
 Olive-sided Flycatcher — 14 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — 25 August, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Barn Swallow — 2 September, Pennington Co., nest with 2 young (NRW).
 Clark's Nutcracker — 25 September, Custer Co., 2 (RAP). 29 September, Custer Co., 1 (JL).
 Black-billed Magpie — 8 October, Edmunds Co., unusual in this area (JDW).
 Black-capped Chickadee — 22 September to 30 November, Pennington Co., 20 banded (NRW).
 Winter Wren — 26 September, Custer Co. (RAP). 3, 10 October, Roberts Co. (BKH). 8 October, Edmunds Co. (JDW).
 Sedge Wren — 4 November, Deuel Co., **latest ever** (BKH, MSS).
 Eastern Bluebird — 20 September, Roberts Co., 42 along 6 mile stretch of highway (DRS). 6 October, Yankton Co., 15 (WH).
 Mountain Bluebird — 27 August, Pennington Co., 20+ (NRW).
 Townsend's Solitaire — 21 October, Brown Co. (DAT). 29 October, Edmunds Co. (JDW).
 Hermit Thrush — 7 October, Brown Co. (JCS).
 Wood Thrush — 6, 28 September, Brown Co. (JCS).
 Brown Thrasher — 18 November, BNP (BNP).
 American Pipit — 8 October, Edmunds Co. (JDW). 13 October, Deuel Co. (BKH). 16 October, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).
 Bohemian Waxwing — 28 October through 24 November, BNP (BNP). 3 November, Jackson Co., 40 (KG).
 Northern Shrike — 18 October, Edmunds Co. (JDW).
 Solitary Vireo — 10, 27 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Philadelphia Vireo — 26 August, Minnehaha Co., 2, early (AH).
 Yellow Warbler — 20 October, Brown Co. (DAT)
 Yellow-rumped Warbler — 4 November, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).
 Blackburnian Warbler — 29 August, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 3 September, Marshall Co. (DAT).
 Pine Warbler — 16 September, BNP, rare migrant (BJ).

- Palm Warbler — 26 September, Kingsbury Co. (DJB).
 Bay-breasted Warbler — 18 August, Day Co., (DRS). 3 September, Marshall Co. (DAT).
 Blackpoll Warbler — 27 September, Brown Co., 1, very late (JCS).
 Ovenbird — 13 October, Brown Co., late (DAT).
 Connecticut Warbler — 27 August, Minnehaha Co., considered an accidental fall migrant (AH).
 Mourning Warbler — 15 August, Brown Co. (DAT). 28 August and 2 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Wilson's Warbler — 2 September, Fall River Co. (RAP).
 Canada Warbler — 1 September, Brown Co., 3 September, Marshall Co. (DAT). 3 September, Minnehaha Co. (AH).
 Scarlet Tanager — 15 August, Roberts Co. (BKH). 3 September, Marshall Co. (DAT)
 Northern Cardinal — 10 August, Brown Co. (DAT).
 Blue Grosbeak — 3 August, Turner Co. (LRL). 11 August, Turner Co. (JL).
 Field Sparrow — 5 August through 6 October, BNP (BNP). 30 September, Jackson Co., 3 banded (KG).
 Savannah Sparrow — 26 August through 13 October, BNP (BNP).
 Le Conte's Sparrow — 1 October, Yankton Co. (WH).
 Fox Sparrow — 28 October, Yankton Co. (WH).
 Swamp Sparrow — 20 October, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 3 November, Jackson, very late (BJ).
 White-throated Sparrow — 9 September and 6 October, BNP (BNP). 26 September, Custer Co., 2 (RAP). 29 September, Pennington Co., 1 banded (NRW). May be more common in western SD than previously thought.
 White-crowned Sparrow — 9 September, BNP, **earliest ever** (BNP).
 Smith's Longspur — 3 November, Roberts Co., very late (BKH, MSS).
 Rusty Blackbird — 8-11 October, Minnehaha Co. (AH). 25 October, Kingsbury Co. (DJB). 4 November, Deuel Co., 20 (BKH).
 Brewer's Blackbird — 29 October, Deuel Co., 100 (BKH). 5 November, Turner Co. (LRL).
 Rosy Finch — 11, 17 November, BNP (BJ).
 Cassin's Finch — 5 August - 25 November, Custer Co. 1-2 (MJP).
 House Finch — 21 October, Minnehaha Co., male (JL). 4 November, Yankton Co., 4 (WH).
 Red Crossbill — 21 October, Brown Co. (DAT). 26 October, Brookings Co., 3 (RWK, JRK). 29 October, Deuel Co. (BKH). 1 November, Day Co., 15 (DRS).
 White-winged Crossbill — 29 October, Brookings Co., 25 (JAK). Only report!

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