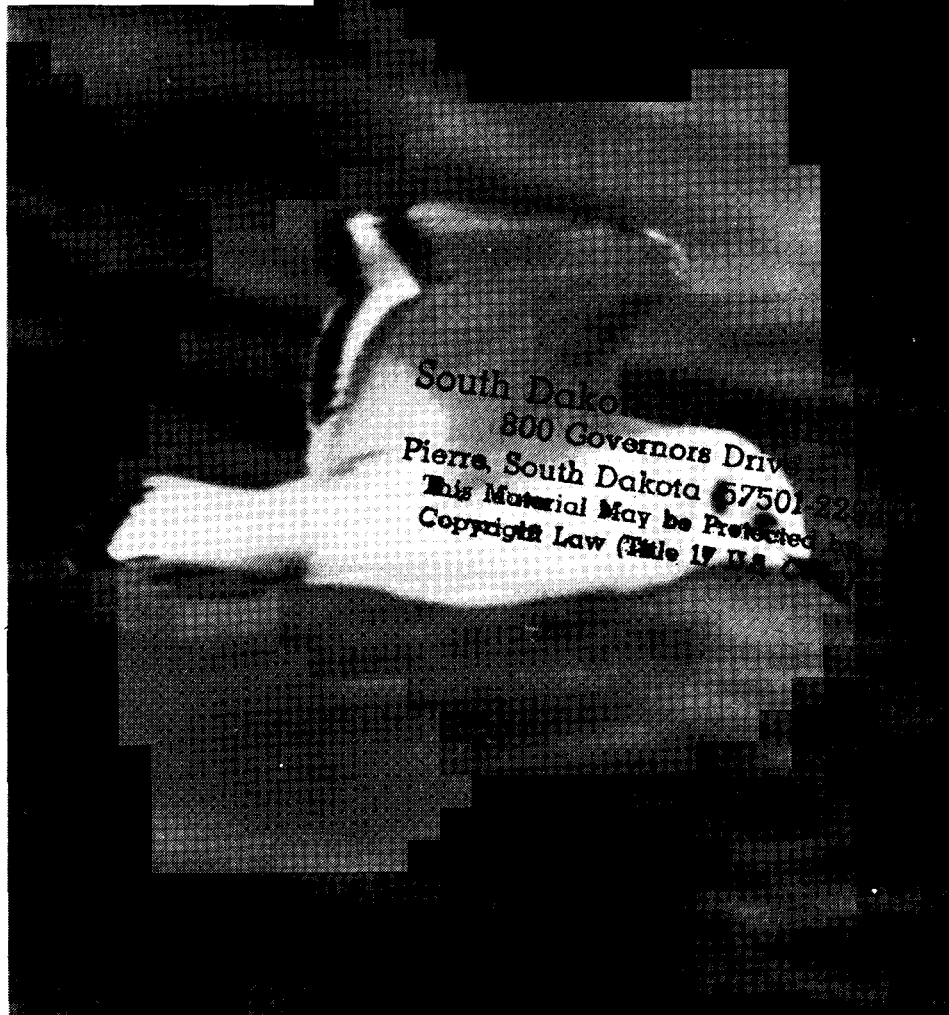


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VOL. 43 June 1991 NO.2

IN THIS ISSUE

BONAPARTE'S GULL By Everett Montgomery	Cover
PRESIDENT'S PAGE	23
BANDING RECOVERIES OF SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS by Dan Tallman.....	24
BIRD OBSERVATIONS AND BANDING AT PICKEREL LAKE STATE	
RECREATION AREA By Dennis Skadsen	28
1990 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRDS RECORDS COMMITTEE.....	36
GENERAL NOTES—Turkey Vulture Nest in Custer County; Laughing Gull in Yankton County	37
BOOK REVIEWS.....	39
THE 1990/91 CHRISTMAS COUNTS	42
THE 1990/91 WINTER SEASON By Dennis Skadsen	45

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I hope that you all enjoyed exciting spring birding in your favorite area of our beautiful state. Bruce Harris and I spent part of an April weekend in some of the badlands in Jackson County. We saw a few birds, but nothing really special. However, we did enjoy the beauty of the countryside. Each passing year brings me greater love and appreciation of the beauty of western South Dakota. I am convinced of the need to do what is necessary to protect the land.

Back in April, during the week of Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Wildlife Week, and Science and Technology Week, I tried to impress on my students the importance of taking care of our earth. We talked about the need to recycle our natural resources, stop global warming, and plant more trees. We then went out and planted more trees in our shelter belt and tilled the ground to stop weed growth. In time we hope to have our own little outdoor education area right by our school. Why don't you do the same?

Those of us who enjoy seeing our feathered friends throughout the year know to look at wetlands to see ducks and in trees to find wood warblers. With these diverse habitats in our state, one can see a great number of nesting and migrating birds. So we need to become active in conservation efforts at local, state, and national levels to insure the continued protection of our land. Let your elected officials know about your concern for our environment and the need to protect all parts of it.

Those of you who have been involved in our atlas project for breeding birds especially know how important habitat is for any nesting bird. If you have yet to do some atlasing, there is still time to participate in the last few years of the project. You will learn more about our avian friends and you will be further impressed by the need to care for all of the diverse habitats that make South Dakota truly great for almost 400 bird species.

I wish you all a good birding year and let's all do our part to protect our environment. *Ken Graupmann, Box 111, Kadoka, SD 57543.*



BANDING RECOVERIES OF SOUTH DAKOTA BIRDS

Part 6. Raptors

by Dan Tallman
Northern State University
Aberdeen 57401

INTRODUCTION. This article is the sixth of a series summarizing 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.

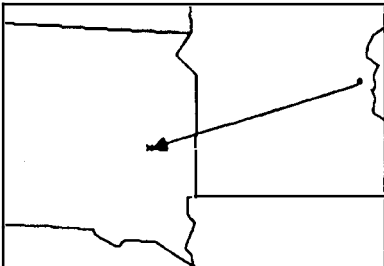
METHODS AND MATERIALS. The information on these maps come from a printout run on 5 January 1990 by the Banding Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The maps were computer generated on MapMaker for the Macintosh by Select Micro Systems, Inc.

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 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.

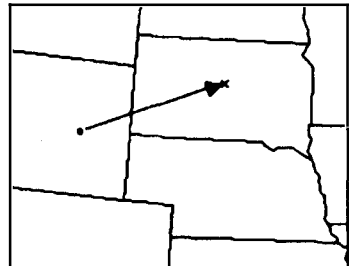
A WORD ON THE TEXT. The maps tend to be self explanatory. However, I have included a short text that includes some noteworthy records and identifies the species for which the map is drawn.

Map 54. Broad-winged Hawk. This bird was banded on 23 June 1972 and recovered 11 June 1973.

Map 55. Rough-legged Hawk. This hawk was banded 15 June 1942 and recovered in September 1942.

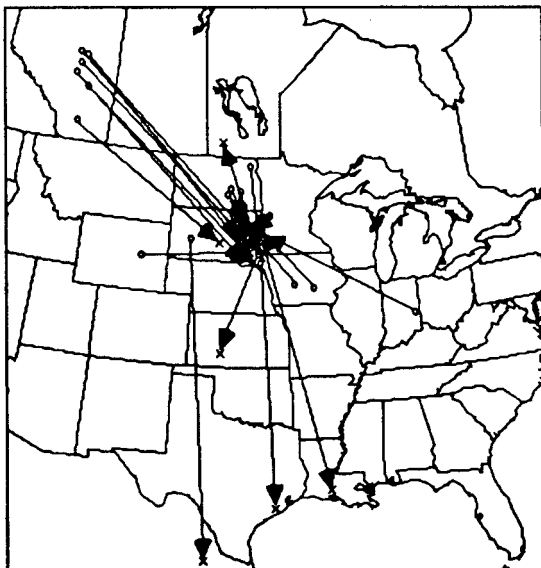


Broad-winged Hawk



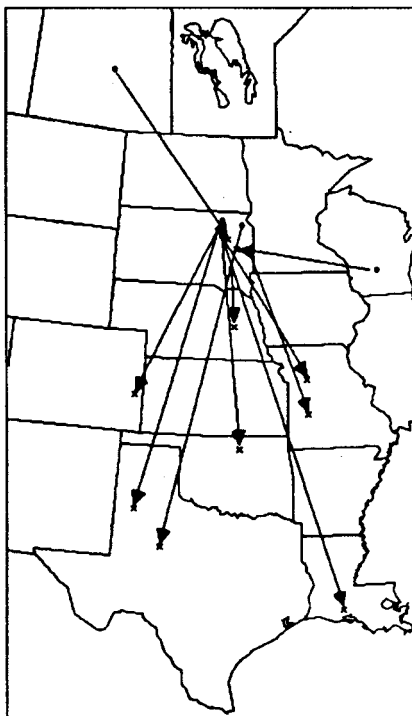
Rough-legged Hawk

Map 56. Red-tailed Hawk. One of the Alberta birds was banded on 25 June 1985 and recovered on 23 October 1985 in South Dakota. No Red-tailed hawk recovery interval is over five years.



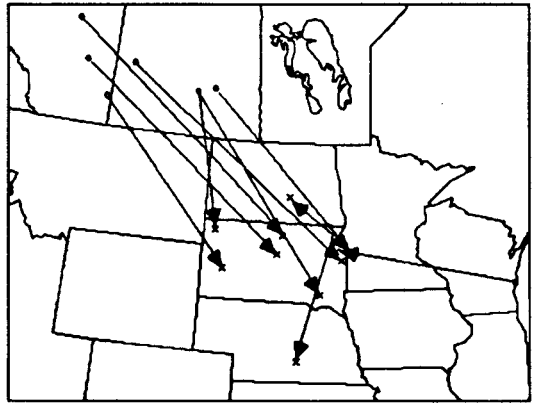
Red-tailed Hawk

Map 57. Northern Harrier. A number of harriers were recaptured in the same season in which they were banded. For example, a bird banded on 23 June 1938 was recovered in Louisiana on 13 December of the same year. Two of the records are for birds recovered four years after banding.



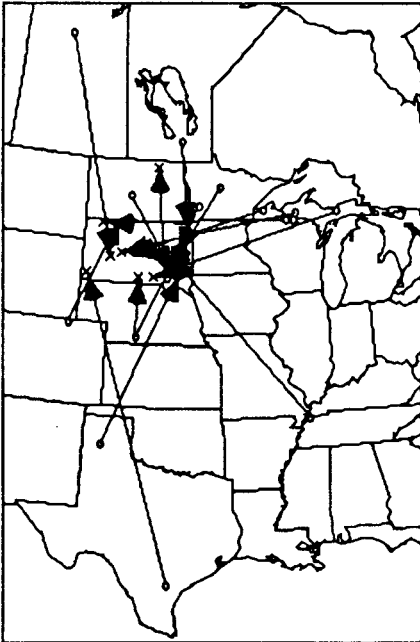
Northern Harrier

Map 58. Swainson's Hawk. Curiously there are not more southern returns from this Latin American wintering hawk. The only bird recaptured the season during which it was banded was banded in Alberta on 6 August 1984 and recovered in South Dakota on 6 October 1984.



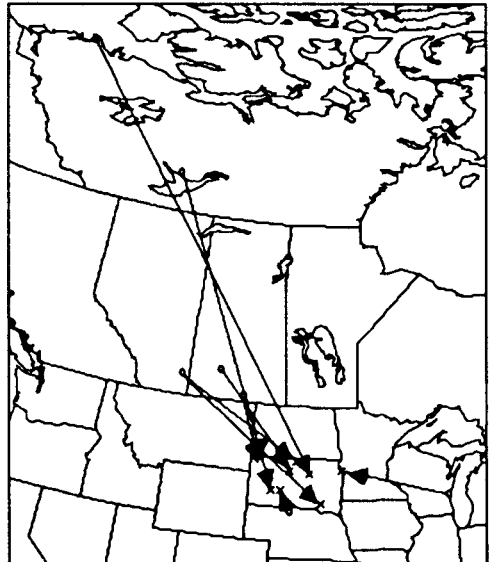
Swainson's Hawk

Map 59. Bald Eagle. Most of these eagles are rehabilitated birds, having spent some time in captivity.

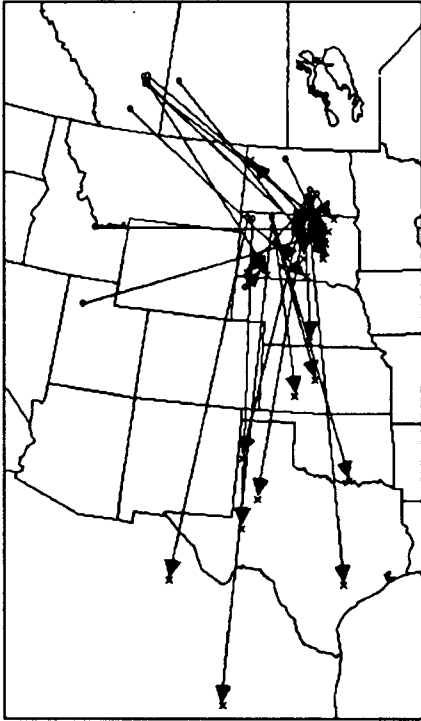


Bald Eagle

Map 60. Golden Eagle. One eagle banded in Wisconsin on 16 October 1975 was recovered in South Dakota on 8 January 1975.

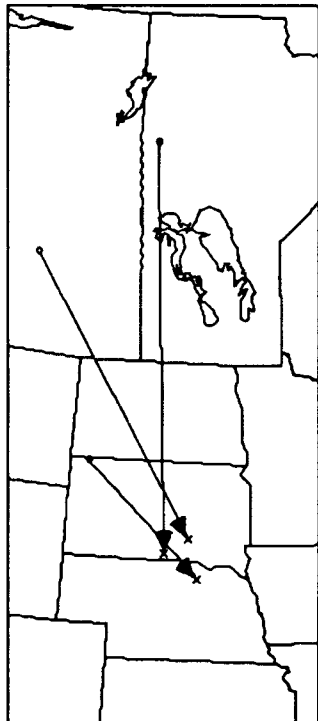


Golden Eagle



Ferruginous Hawk

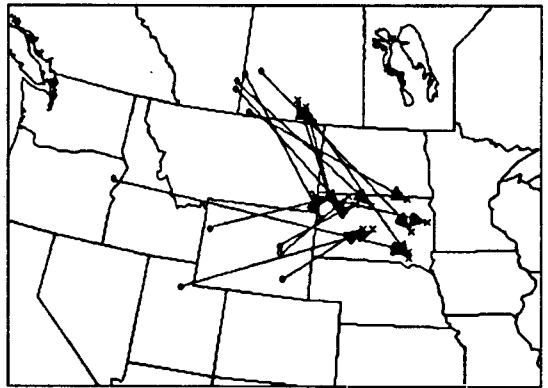
Map 61. Ferruginous Hawk. Two noteworthy records are of a hawk banded in South Dakota on 12 July 1975 and recovered in Texas on 11 September 1975; and a bird banded in Utah on 2 June 1941 and recovered in South Dakota on 20 September of the same year, thus migrating east and a bit north during the fall migration.



Merlin

Map 62. Merlin. The shortest time between banding and recovery was of a bird banded in Saskatchewan on 22 July 1939 and recovered in South Dakota sometime in September of the same year.

Map 63. Prairie Falcon. Some of these falcons apparently breed in the Rocky Mountain region and winter in the Great Plains. For example, a bird banded in Wyoming on 14 June 1938 was recovered in South Dakota in December 1951; and another bird, banded in Oregon on 29 June 1979 and was recovered in our state on 3 December of the same year.



Prairie Falcon

BIRD OBSERVATIONS AND BANDING AT PICKEREL LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA.

by Dennis Skadsen
RR Box 113 Grenville 57239

Introduction . Northeastern South Dakota can provide some of the best year-round birding in the state. The Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Sica Hollow are well known birding hot-spots. Other areas, which exist near these more familiar sites, can offer equally good birding. One such site is the Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area.

Location. Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area is in the northeast corner of Day County, 11 miles north of Waubay, South Dakota, along the 955-acre Pickerel Lake. The park has two units, the east is comprised of upland prairie with several small permanent and semi-permanent wetlands typical of the Coteau des Prairie. Riparian woods line the lake's shoreline and a spring fed creek borders the east unit's southern edge. The west unit has a large tree claim containing Ponderosa Pines and Eastern Red Cedars. Several crab apple and plum trees provide an excellent food source for wintering birds. A small spring fed creek winds through the north end of this unit. Hiking trails pass through all habitat types in both units. Campgrounds with electrical hookups are available in both units, and comfort stations are located in the west unit.

Species. Table II lists 178 species of birds observed or banded in the park from April 1986 through December 1990. Observations were made weekly if possible. Banded birds were captured using 5 mist nests and a variety of ground traps. 4899 individual birds of 78 species have been banded in the west unit of the park from November 1986 through December 1990. Table I lists 31 species observed breeding. A more detailed account of species observed and banded follows.

Loons and Grebes. Common Loons are regularly observed on Pickerel Lake during fall migration from September through the first half of November. Only one spring observation of this species has been recorded by the author on Pickerel Lake. A few are found on this and other nearby lakes during the summer months. Horned Grebes have been observed only during April 1988. Western Grebes are observed during spring and fall migrations. Pied-billed Grebes are found on the east unit wetlands from April through October.

Pelicans and Cormorants. These birds can be observed from early April through October. A few cormorants linger into early November. Both species feed and rest on the lake regularly.

Bitterns, Egrets, and Herons. American Bitterns and Great Blue Herons are common on the east unit wetlands. Green-backed Herons have been observed from May through early August along the creek that passes through the west unit. Black-crowned Night-Herons have been recorded from May through October in both units. Great Egrets are found during fall migration on the east unit wetlands.

Swans, Ducks, and Geese. Tundra Swans are seen on Pickerel Lake during fall migration from late October through early November. Greater White-fronted Geese have only been observed flying overhead during migration. Snow Geese utilize the lake for rest during spring and fall migrations. Canada Geese have been found nesting on muskrat huts in several of the east unit wetlands. These geese move from the park during late summer to the larger, less disturbed waters, such as those found in the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge. Ducks breeding in the park include Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, and Redhead. The divers nest in the east unit wetlands. The teal and mallard nest in the west unit. Waterfowl are common during migration on the lake and wetlands of the east unit.

Vultures, Hawks, and Falcons. Turkey Vultures have been observed during April. Bald Eagles have been observed during March, with only one fall sighting in early November. Sharp-shinned Hawks are commonly seen in the conifers of the west unit during spring and fall migrations. Male Sharp-shinned Hawks have been captured in mist nets and banded in September and October of the last three years. A pair of Cooper's Hawks were found nesting in the woods behind the east unit campground in the spring of 1990. It is possible these birds nest in the area regularly. During previous years, immatures were observed in the east unit during months June and July. Two Cooper's Hawks were captured in mist nets and banded during the fall of 1989 in the west unit. A Northern Goshawk was observed on 17 November 1986. This is the only record of this species in the park. Broad-winged Hawks are observed during spring migration from late April through early May in the west unit. Swainson's Hawks have been observed nesting every year in both units. In 1988, a pair nested in the west unit 150 feet from the park residence. The pair returned in 1990 and were observed placing new sticks on the nest, but eventually abandoned the site. Red-tailed Hawks are commonly observed in both units during migration but have not been observed breeding in the park. Merlins have been observed every year in the park's west unit from late October through early January. This species is attracted to the site by the number of small birds available as prey.

Shorebirds. Killdeers and Spotted Sandpipers are the most common shorebirds in the park. Few other species have been sighted. In 1986, a Common Snipe was flushed from a nest near the edge of a small wetland in the west unit. This species is observed every year in courtship flights over both units during April and May. Also observed during these spring months are American Woodcocks, whose nasal "peent" can be heard in both units shortly before sunset. Adults of this species have been observed in July and they may breed in the park.

Gulls and Terns. Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls are observed from early spring through late fall. During fall migration, large rafts of both species are on the lake. Common and Black Terns feed on the lake during migration. On 25 June 1987, a Caspian Tern was observed on the lake from the east unit (Tallman in Seasons 1987d). This is the only record of this species for the park.

Cuckoos. Black-billed Cuckoos are observed from May through August in both units. An observation of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on 28 September 1986 is the only record for the park.

Owls. Except for the Great Horned Owl, which is common and nests in both units, all other species are considered uncommon. The Long-eared and Barred Owls were observed only once and the Eastern Screech-Owl is heard sporadically during the year. Short-eared Owls have been observed once in November hunting over the east unit's prairie. Considering the habitat found in the west unit, dense stands of conifers, one would expect to find species such as the Long-eared Owl and possibly the Northern Saw-whet Owl more often. These species are noted for preferring this type of habitat and may be more common in the park, but due to their secretive nature, I have not seen them. Mist nets have been left open during evenings in September and October in hopes of capturing Northern Saw-whet Owls in migration, but thus far this effort has not been successful.

Goatsuckers. Common Nighthawks are regular in both units from early June through August. On 22 September 1989, a male Whip-poor-will was captured during the night in a mist net. This is the only record of the species for the park. The species, considered a rare migrant in the eastern third of the state, has been heard and observed in Knights Coulee and Hartford Beach State Park in Roberts County.

Hummingbirds. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird becomes more common with the blooming of Jewelweed, *Impatiens biflora* and *Impatiens pallida*, during July and early August. During August 1989, several females were captured in mist nets along a creek lined with blooming Jewelweed. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was recently found breeding in Roberts County (Harris SDBN 39:66-67) and might be expected to nest in the similar habitat of this park. The species has not been recorded in the park during spring migration.

Woodpeckers. A female Red-bellied Woodpecker was banded on 7 April 1990 in the west unit. The Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers have only been recorded once in the park. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have been observed for several years, but only during April. The Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and Northern Flicker are found in both units throughout the year. The Downy Woodpecker is the most common.

Flycatchers. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was banded on 27 August 1989. This is the only record of the species for the park. The Eastern Wood-Pewee is common in the wooded areas of the east unit. Here one may also observe the Great Crested Flycatcher. Willow and Least Flycatchers can be identified by their calls during May in both units. Eastern Phoebes are more common during spring migration in April in the wooded portions of the east unit. The first fall observation of this species occurred in 1990, when one bird lingered for several days near a large culvert at the park's west entrance. Both Western and Eastern Kingbirds are common in the park from May through August. On 12 May 1990, a male Vermillion Flycatcher, considered an accidental species, was observed in the west unit. This is only the third confirmed record for the species in South Dakota.

Martins and Swallows. Purple Martins are common in both units and many cabin owners have active colonies near the park. Tree and Barn Swallows are the only other swallows observed in the park to date.

Jays and Crows. Blue Jays are observed sporadically year-round, mainly in the west unit. The American Crow nests in the west unit and large numbers of these birds roost in the conifers during winter. A flock of 200 birds roosted in the park during January 1987.

Chickadees, Nuthatches, and Creepers. 124 Black-capped Chickadees, a year round resident, have been banded in the west unit. Another resident bird, the White-breasted Nuthatch, can be found in both units. Its smaller cousin, the Red-breasted Nuthatch, inhabits conifers of the west unit, from early September through March. A few have also been observed in early May and August. The Brown Creeper is less common than the previous species and has been observed from late November through March.

Wrens. The House Wren is a common bird in both units from May through September. The Sedge Wren has been heard in a small wet meadow near the park residence from late June through August. It has not been recorded in the east unit. The Marsh Wren is a common nester in the east unit's wetlands.

Kinglets. Golden-crowned Kinglets are sporadic winter visitors to the conifers of the west unit. The species has been recorded from late September through March, with migrants observed in late April. Ruby-crowned Kinglets are often observed in spring migration during April and May, and during fall migration from September through October.

Thrushes. The Eastern Bluebird has been observed in both units of the park. During the winter of 1989-90, four bluebirds wintered in the west unit, surviving extremely cold temperatures (Harris SDBN 42:62). The birds remained near open water on a spring fed creek. Townsend's Solitaires are sporadic winter visitors that prefer the conifers of the west unit. This species has been observed from late November through March. A Veery, banded in 1989 in the west unit, is the only record of this species for the park. More common are the Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes. These species are common during spring migration in May. The Hermit Thrush has been observed only in November of 1987 and 1989 in the west unit. From 16 November 1986 through 11 January 1987, a single female Varied Thrush was observed in the west unit of the park. The bird was commonly found in crab apple trees and, when disturbed, flew into nearby conifers. The Varied Thrush is usually found in the Pacific Northwest and is considered a casual visitor to SD (Whitney et al. *The Birds of South Dakota*). The American Robin can be found year-round in the west unit, where it frequently winters, depending on the availability of open water and food.

Waxwings. Cedar Waxwings are year-round residents of the park's west unit. During winter the supply of crab apples, cedar berries and other food attracts these birds and the larger Bohemian Waxwing. The Bohemian Waxwing is a sporadic visitor, observed from late October through mid-February.

Vireos. The Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireos are uncommon migrants in early May and early September. The Yellow-throated Vireo has also been observed during the breeding season just outside the confines of the west unit. One may expect to observe this bird in the wooded areas of the east unit, where possibly it may breed. Another migrant, the

Philadelphia Vireo, was banded in the west unit. The Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos can be found in both units from early May through September.

Warblers. 23 species of warblers have been observed in the east and west units of the park. Two rare species, the Golden-winged and Black-throated Blue Warblers, have been observed once. Uncommon species, including the Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted Warblers have been seen occasionally, and a Worm-eating Warbler was banded in the spring of 1990. Most species are observed the first half of May during spring migration. The Yellow-rumped Warbler is the first of these colorful species to arrive. Spring migration begins in early April for this species. During the fall migration the Yellow-rumped (Myrtle Warbler) may remain into early November. The Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat nest in the area. The best areas to observe warblers are along the creek on the north edge of the west unit, and in the woods along the east unit's shoreline. A spring fed creek, which passes through a deep coulee on the south edge of the east unit, also provides good warbler habitat.

Tanagers and Cardinals. A Western Tanager was observed in the west unit on 13 May 1990 (Harris in Seasons 1990c). The Northern Cardinal, an uncommon visitor to this area, has been observed twice. A male seen in December 1986, remained in the park's west unit through April 1987. A young male was observed in August 1987 in this same unit.

Towhees and Sparrows. A Rufous-sided Towhee was observed in the west unit on 3 October 1987. This is the only record for the species in the park. The Harris' Sparrow is the most common migrant sparrow in the west unit. 249 Harris' Sparrows have been banded in the park since the spring of 1987. This sparrow, a May migrant in spring, is much more abundant during fall migration from mid-September through the first half of November. Similarly, Lincoln's, White-crowned, and White-throated Sparrows are more abundant and remain in the area longer during fall migration. The Fox and Swamp sparrows have been observed only occasionally in the west unit. Clay-colored, Chipping, and Song sparrows can be observed during the breeding season in both units. The latter two species have been found breeding in the park.

Blackbirds. Bobolinks are found from May through June on the east unit's prairie. A nesting colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds is on a permanent wetland in the east unit. The Rusty Blackbird inhabits areas of the park where open water is available during the winter. In the east unit, this would include the spring fed creek along the park's southern edge, and in the west unit, the small springs along the creek bordering the north end. Look for these birds from late October through the end of March.

Grosbeaks and Finches. These birds are attracted to the food supply and cover of the west unit. The Pine Grosbeak has been observed from late November through January. These seemingly tame birds can be closely observed as they feed on cedar berries and cones of the Ponderosa Pine. Purple Finches are observed every year from October through mid-April. The Red Crossbill can be seen hanging from Ponderosa Pine cones using its uniquely shaped bill to retrieve the hidden seeds. This species has been observed from late August through mid-April. Red Crossbills were found nesting in the park in March 1987. Several females with brood patches

were banded. It is probable six or more pairs were nesting in the park during the spring of 1987. Immatures have been observed in late May and July. The White-winged Crossbill has been observed only in 1987 and 1989 in small numbers. The Common Redpoll has been observed in both units of the park from late November through the first half of April. During the winter of 1987, a total of 677 redpolls were banded in the west unit from January through March. Pine Siskins can be found in small numbers from late September through May. Evening Grosbeaks have been observed on 3 occasions from late October through December, but are the least common of all species mentioned.

Table I. Breeding birds of Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area.

SPECIES	DATE	EVIDENCE
CANADA GOOSE	30 Apr 86	adult on nest
MALLARD	8 Jun 87	adult w/brood of 10
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	Jul 90	adult w/brood of 8
CANVASBACK	31 May 86	nest w/eggs
REDHEAD	19 Jul 86	adult w/brood of 2
COOPER'S HAWK	29 Apr 90	adult on nest
SWAINSON'S HAWK	7 May 86	pair building nest
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	21 Jul 88	brood observed
AMERICAN COOT	31 May 86	nest w/eggs
KILLDEER	6 May 86	nest w/eggs
COMMON SNIPE	13 May 86	nest w/eggs
MOURNING DOVE	3 May 86	nest w/eggs
GREAT HORNED OWL	8 Jun 87	nest w/young
WESTERN KINGBIRD	30 Jun 87	nest w/young
TREE SWALLOW	20 May 88	nest w/eggs
BARN SWALLOW	19 Jul 87	nest w/young
COMMON CROW	15 May 88	nest w/young
HOUSE WREN	26 Jun 88	nest w/eggs
MARSH WREN	31 May 86	nest w/eggs
AMERICAN ROBIN	9 May 86	adult on nest
GRAY CATBIRD	19 Jul 87	nest w/young
CEDAR WAXWING	19 Jun 87	adult on nest
YELLOW WARBLER	29 May 88	nest w/eggs
CHIPPING SPARROW	3 Jul 87	adult feeding cowbird
SONG SPARROW	16 Aug 87	adult feeding young
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD	31 May 86	nest w/eggs
COMMON GRACKLE	4 May 86	nest w/eggs
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	19 Jun 87	eggs in waxwing nest
ORCHARD ORIOLE	4 Jun 88	adult on nest
RED CROSSBILL	24 Mar 87	nest w/young
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	9 Aug 87	nest w/eggs

Table II. Checklist of Birds Observed and Banded At Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area From April 1986 to December 1990. * — Denotes a species observed only once or an individual bird. (FO) — Observed only flying overhead. (B) — Denotes species banded.

Common Loon	Prairie Falcon *
Pied-billed Grebe	Ring-necked Pheasant
Horned Grebe	Sora
Eared Grebe	American Coot
Western Grebe	Sandhill Crane (FO)
American White Pelican	Killdeer (B)
Double-crested Cormorant	Greater Yellowlegs
American Bittern	Lesser Yellowlegs
Great Blue Heron	Spotted Sandpiper
Great Egret	Upland Sandpiper
Green-backed Heron	Common Snipe
Black-crowned Night-Heron	American Woodcock
Tundra Swan	Franklin's Gull
Greater White-fronted Goose (FO)	Ring-billed Gull
Snow Goose	Caspian Tern *
Canada Goose	Common Tern
Wood Duck	Black Tern
Green-winged Teal	Mourning Dove (B)
Mallard	Black-billed Cuckoo (B)
Northern Pintail	Yellow-billed Cuckoo *
Blue-winged Teal (B)	Eastern Screech-Owl
Northern Shoveler	Great Horned Owl
Gadwall	Barred Owl *
Canvasback	Long-eared Owl *
Redhead	Short-eared Owl
Ring-necked Duck	Common Nighthawk
Lesser Scaup	Whip-poor-will * (B)
Common Goldeneye	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Bufflehead	Belted Kingfisher
Hooded Merganser *	Red-headed Woodpecker *
Common Merganser	Red-bellied Woodpecker * (B)
Ruddy Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Turkey Vulture	Downy Woodpecker (B)
Bald Eagle	Hairy Woodpecker (B)
Northern Harrier	Northern Flicker (B)
Sharp-shinned Hawk (B)	Olive-sided Flycatcher (B)
Cooper's Hawk (B)	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Northern Goshawk *	Willow Flycatcher
Broad-winged Hawk	Least Flycatcher (B)
Swainson's Hawk	Eastern Phoebe
Rough-legged Hawk*	Vermillion Flycatcher *
Red-tailed Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher (B)
Ferruginous Hawk *	Western Kingbird
Golden Eagle	Eastern Kingbird (B)
American Kestrel	Purple Martin (B)
Merlin	Tree Swallow (B)

Barn Swallow (B)
Blue Jay (B)
American Crow (B)
Black-capped Chickadee (B)
Red-breasted Nuthatch (B)
White-breasted Nuthatch (B)
Brown Creeper
House Wren (B)
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet (B)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (B)
Eastern Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Veery * (B)
Gray-cheeked Thrush (B)
Swainson's Thrush (B)
Hermit Thrush
American Robin (B)
Varied Thrush*
Gray Catbird (B)
Brown Thrasher (B)
Bohemian Waxwing
Cedar Waxwing (B)
Northern Shrike (B)
European Starling
Solitary Vireo (B)
Yellow-throated Vireo
Warbling Vireo (B)
Philadelphia Vireo (B)
Red-eyed Vireo (B)
Golden-winged Warbler *
Tennessee Warbler (B)
Orange-crowned Warbler (B)
Nashville Warbler (B)
Yellow Warbler (B)
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler (B)
Black-throated Blue Warbler *
Yellow-rumped Warbler (B)
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler (B)

Blackpoll Warbler (B)
Black-and-white Warbler (B)
American Redstart (B)
Worm-eating Warbler * (B)
Ovenbird (B)
Northern Waterthrush (B)
Mourning Warbler (B)
Common Yellowthroat (B)
Wilson's Warbler (B)
Canada Warbler (B)
Western Tanager *
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (B)
Rufous-sided Towhee *
American Tree Sparrow (B)
Chipping Sparrow (B)
Clay-colored Sparrow (B)
Vesper Sparrow *
Fox Sparrow (B)
Song Sparrow (B)
Lincoln's Sparrow (B)
Swamp Sparrow (B)
White-throated Sparrow (B)
White-crowned Sparrow (B)
Harris' Sparrow (B)
Dark-eyed Junco (B)
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird (B)
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle (B)
Brown-headed Cowbird (B)
Orchard Oriole (B)
Northern Oriole (B)
Pine Grosbeak
Purple Finch (B)
Red Crossbill (B)
White-winged Crossbill
Common Redpoll (B)
Pine Siskin (B)
American Goldfinch (B)
Evening Grosbeak (B)
House Sparrow

1990 REPORT OF THE RARE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Paul F. Springer
1610 Panorama Drive
Arcata, CA 95521

The SDOU Rare Bird Records Committee met on 22 April 1990 at Pierre and on 7 October 1990 at Vermillion. The current members of the committee are Nathaniel Whitney (acting chairman), Paul Springer (secretary), Gilbert Blankespoor, Bruce Harris, and Dan Tallman. All members attended each meeting or voted in absentia.

A description of the committee's purpose and voting procedures is presented in the September 1988 issue of *South Dakota Bird Notes* (40:67-70). Observers of rare and unusual birds in South Dakota are urged to report them to the committee secretary or to any committee member. A Documentation of Rare Bird Sightings form is available for this purpose. A list of those species for which descriptions are requested is included as Appendix 1 to the 1989 report, which appeared in the March 1990 issue of *Bird Notes*. Also, Observers are asked to submit reports of other species that are rare or unusual at a particular season or location within the state. Persons whose records are accepted (Classes 1 and 2) are encouraged to publish them in *Bird Notes*. Citations are given for those records listed in this report that are already published.

Following are the results of the committee's actions since the previous report in the March 1990 issue of *Bird Notes*. The numbers in parentheses within a species' listing indicate the committee's vote. If not stated, the vote was unanimous (5-0). The committee emphasizes that a rating of Class 3 or 4 does not imply any personal criticism of the observer. Rather, these classes simply indicate that the committee did not find the description complete enough to be entirely convincing.

CLASS 1 (Accepted — Specimen, photograph, or sound recording)

- Little Blue Heron. 6 August 1990, 3 near Oldham, Kingsbury Co., 2 photographed, Loren Blake.
- Whimbrel. 28 May 1990, 2 near Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Bennett Co., photographed, Norm and Mary Jensen.
- Pomarine Jaeger. 30 June 1990, 1 at Lewis and Clark Lake near Gavin's Point, Yankton Co., photographed, Mark J. Schubert.
- Laughing Gull. 10 January 1990, 1 at Gavin's Point, Yankton Co., photographed, Bruce K. Harris and Steve Van Sickle (4 votes = Class 1).
- Laughing Gull. 30 April 1990, 1 at Gavin's Point, Yankton Co., photographed, Steve Van Sickle (first observed on 28 April 1990 on Nebraska side of dam by Mark Brogle).
- Iceland Gull. 11 December 1988, 1 at Gavin's Point Dam, Yankton Co., photographed, B. J. Rose (also reported by Tanya Bray; first seen 4 December 1988 by Mark and Ed Brogle).
- Prairie Warbler. 11-20 June 1976, 1 at Wind Cave National Park, Fall River Co., photographed, James Palmer.
- Worm-eating Warbler. 27 May 1990, 1 at Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area, Day Co., photographed, Dennis Skadsen.
- Summer Tanager. 25 April 1990, 1 near Custer, Custer Co., specimen, June Johnston (possibly seen about the first week of April also).

House Finch. 26 March – 30 April 1990, 2 at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha Co., photographed, Karen M. Liebert and James D. Porter.

CLASS 2 (Accepted — Satisfactory written description)

Red Phalarope. 26 May 1990, 1 at Sorum Dam, Perkins Co., Paul F. Springer (4 votes = Class 2).

Glaucous Gull. 11 December 1988, 5 at Gavin's Point Dam, Yankton Co., Tanya E. Bray.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird. 6–13 June 1990, 1 at Bear Mountain, Pennington Co., Virginia Gifford.

Vermillion Flycatcher. 12 May 1990, 1 at Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area, Day Co., Dennis Skadsen

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. 9 June 1989, 1 at Little White River Recreation Area, Bennett Co., Mary Kippes.

Cassin's Kingbird. 1 and 15 June 1990, 3+ near Allen, Bennett Co., Richard A. Peterson, SDBN 42:85–86.

Steller's Jay. 22 July 1948, Loveland Canyon, Pennington Co., William C. Dilger, *Birds of the Black Hills*, 1965, p 68 (4 votes = Class 2, 1 = Class 3).

Class 3 (Not accepted — Identification possibly correct but description not completely convincing)

Mountain Plover. 5 June 1975, 2 at Springer Wetland Production Area near Florence, Codington Co. Original report was lost. New report did not contain enough detail for accurate identification. Possibility of Piping Plover, or of nonbreeding-plumaged Golden or Black-bellied Plover not ruled out.

Pomarine Jaeger. 2 October 1987, 1 at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Brown Co. (4 votes = Class 3, previously rated Class 2). Report did not contain enough detail on body and wing coloration, bill thickness and length, and tail shape for accurate identification. Possibility of Parasitic Jaeger not ruled out.

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. 12 August 1990, 1 near Howard, Miner Co.

Common Moorhen. 6 August 1990, 1 near Junius, Lake Co.

Red Knot. 25 May 1990, 8 near Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Bennett Co.

Prairie Warbler. 5 May 1990, 1 at Huron, Beadle Co.

Le Conte's Sparrow. 12 May 1989, several at Pott's Dam, Potter Co. and Stone Lake, Sully Co.

Eastern Meadowlark. 14 June 1990, 1 near Blunt, Hughes Co.

GENERAL NOTES

TURKEY VULTURE NEST IN CUSTER COUNTY. While exploring for caves in Layton Canyon, in mid-May 1990, Steve Baldwin came upon a Turkey Vulture nest. This Canyon is located south and west of the town of Custer. Steve inspected one cave high on a limestone bluff. A small chimney led down from the top of the bluff six to eight feet to join the main entrance, an opening four feet in diameter, high on the southeast facing cliff. Steve startled a Turkey Vulture in the cave. He retreated when the bird covered against the back wall, 12–15 feet from the entrance. He reported the obser-

vation to Duane Weber and Tom Johnson, both wildlife biologists with the Custer Ranger District of the US Forest Service. They accompanied him to the cave on 22 June, finding two young and an adult in the cave. The adult appeared to be brooding the nestlings, and defended the nest and young by hissing quietly at the men.

Steve first took us to the cave on 25 July. The two offspring were present, but no adults were visible in the area. The chicks were the size of domestic chickens, mostly downy white, with darker feathers on their heads, and gray feathers at their ceres. Their vocalizations were loud, reptilian hisses. When we returned to the nest on 7 August, the nestlings had well developed primaries, and very little down left on their bodies. Our final check on the nest was on 3 September. The rocky area on the top of the bluff was thoroughly spotted with whitewash and tiny bits of down. The nestlings were gone, but we did spot a Turkey Vulture soaring over the canyon.

This nest is the second known for the Turkey Vulture in Custer County. Richard Peterson reported the first county record as a nest located about 6 miles SSE of Pringle in 1988. He found one downy nestling in a rock cavern in mid-July. *Maggie and Kevin Hachmeister, Box 905, Custer, SD 57730.*

LAUGHING GULL IN YANKTON COUNTY. Whitney et al. (1978. *The Birds of South Dakota*, SDOU) consider the Laughing Gull an accidental salt-water species that is not to be expected in South Dakota. These authors cite only one record: a specimen described by Stephens (1920. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 27:395-407) as an immature or winter plumage bird that was found dead near Lake Goodenough on 19 September 1919 by A. F. Allen.

A report of a Laughing Gull by Steve Van Sickle and Bruce K. Harris on 10 January 1990 at the Gavin's Point Dam tailwaters, Cedar County, Nebraska has recently been accepted by both the Nebraska and South Dakota Records Committees. I observed an adult plumage Laughing Gull in the Gavin's Point area in the spring of 1990. This bird was observed and photographed in Nebraska and on the South Dakota side of Lake Yankton (Yankton Co.); providing a definite South Dakota record. This bird may have over-wintered and be the same individual observed by Van Sickle and Harris.

On 28 April 1990, while taking part in a field trip of the Lueshens' Birders of Northeast Nebraska, I photographed a Laughing Gull at the Gavin's Point Dam tailwaters, Cedar Co., Nebraska. The bird was first identified as it flew downstream of the dam and landed on a small sandbar occupied by Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls and Forster's Terns. The bird had a black hood, large, dull reddish bill, white underparts and hind neck, slate gray mantle and wings, black primaries, and blackish red legs. The Laughing Gull appeared much larger than the nearby Franklin's Gulls and nearly equalled the Ring-billed Gulls' size. Its bill was longer and noticeably heavier than that of the Franklin's, although the eye crescents of the Laughing were not as pronounced. The wings appeared to be quite long. In flight, the gray of the wings merged with the all-black primaries. The flight style of the Laughing Gull appeared to be more buoyant than that of Franklin's Gulls.

The bird was observed by numerous witnesses for about four hours and, upon our departure in midafternoon, the bird was still resting on the sandbar. The next morning, Bill Huser and I arrived just after sunrise and

spent nearly 45 minutes surveying the area downstream from the dam before we saw the Laughing Gull flying across the road to Lake Yankton. The bird then proceeded to fly to the South Dakota side (Yankton Co.) near the entrance of the Chief White Crane Recreation Area, where it hovered and dove several times into the water. It then flew back across Lake Yankton and landed on the sandbar on which we left it the previous day. It was found by several observers later that afternoon, which represents the last sighting of the bird known to me.

Identifiable photographs are in my possession and copies have been sent to the South Dakota and Nebraska Records Committees. *Mark A. Brogle, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729.*

BOOK REVIEWS

Phylogeny and Classification of Birds: A Study in Molecular Evolution by Charles G. Sibley and Jon E. Alquist. 1991. Yale University Press, New Haven. 976 pp. Hardbound. \$100.00.

Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World by Charles G. Sibley and Burt L. Monroe. 1991. Yale University Press, New Haven. 1111 pp. Hardbound. \$125.00

In the past, taxonomy above the species level has always been somewhat arbitrary. For example, if a bird has a seed-eater's bill, it must be a finch. But what if the bird in question were actually a warbler that specialized in seed eating? In other words, what about convergent evolution?

Charles Sibley and Jon Alquist begin their introduction with this statement: "The plants and animals of Earth evolved from a single origin of life and they have had a single evolutionary history...organisms are related to one another by the degree to which they share genetic information." Sibley and Alquist describe in considerable detail how they compare the genetic information contained in bird DNA. What is important is that these scientists have given us a nonarbitrary way to test degree of relatedness.

Sibley and Alquist's work is not without potential problems or critics. I understand that DNA comparisons assume a universal constant rate of gene mutations. I suspect that Sibley and Alquist rely on a constant average rate of gene mutation and they occasionally explain away odd findings as the result of different breeding rates of the species involved. I have always thought it possible that convergent sequences of DNA could evolve. Admittedly, convergent DNA is statistically unlikely, but I wonder, especially in the light of the existence of convergent phenotypes (what the birds look like). Finally, all over the world, museums are converting to molecular genetics to solve evolutionary questions. Warning should be given, however, that the conclusions that result from this work are only as sound as the field identifications of the birds being studied. Field work does not rely on genotype (what the DNA sequences are); the field worker must know his or her birds at the phenotype level. Erika and I met several of Sibley and Alquist's field workers and some were better at bird identification than were others. Our blood specimens to Sibley and Alquist were backed up by specimen identification, often lacking in studies forsaking "old fashion" systematics.

Sibley and Alquist's work sometimes confirm and other times disagree with previous phylogenies. For example, they split the South American antbirds into two families, Formicariidae for the ground-walking species and Thamnophilidae for the rest. The parasite work that Erika and I have done supports this split.

This book covers all the birds of the world. Many findings will interest South Dakotans. Woodpeckers are among the most primitive of birds. Pheasants begin the species list and they are in a different family from quail. Whistling ducks are in a separate family from the rest of the ducks. Cuckoos and anis are in separate families (and Roadrunners are in a third). Avocets and stilts are included with the Plovers and oystercatchers (at the family level). The family Laridae includes jaegers, gulls, terns and the auks and puffins. Ospreys are merged in with Accipitridae. Vultures are merged with the storks. Starlings and mockingbirds and thrashers are merged into the family Sturnidae. Creepers, wrens, and gnatcatchers all lie within the family Certhiidae. The family Fringillidae now includes an array of species, including goldfinches, buntings, sparrows, wood warblers, tanagers, cardinals, grosbeaks and blackbirds. For the birder with a world outlook, even greater surprises are in store.

The *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* is a list of the birds of the world based on the previous book, *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds*. You will be primarily interested in this book if you want a complete list of birds of the planet and if you want to see the results of Sibley and Alquist's molecular work. This is more than just a list, however, since the habitat of all the birds is noted and considerable effort has been expended to have the birds' nomenclature conform to international laws of nomenclature. Questions of taxonomic status and other related problems are briefly mentioned. Groups of species considered to be recently diverged (superspecies) are also indicated. The work is scholarly and is not intended for a lay audience. Those wishing to keep life lists, for example, will not find space for check marks, although they could certainly use the margins for notations.

Perusing the book, however, will lead to fascinating insights. For example, the authors recognize two species of Warbling Vireos, the Eastern and the Western. The latter, said to occur in southwestern South Dakota, is smaller and grayer and apparently has a different song. Most of the species recently lumped by the AOU remain lumped (e.g., the juncos and orioles). On the other hand, the Thayer's Gull is relegated to subspecific status under the Iceland Gull, although mention is made that Thayer's may be a good species allied with *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*, and both might be closer to the Herring Gull than to the Iceland. (Ornithology would not be as fun if it were not confusing.)

These books are expensive and highly technical, but they are also of vast importance to systematic ornithology. If you consider yourself to be an ornithologist rather than just a birder, you should seriously consider acquiring these reference books for yourself. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE by Jim Flegg. Photographs by Eric and David Hosking. 1990. Cornell University Press. Ithaca. 256 pp. Cloth \$43.50. Softbound \$19.95.

Lately I have been expanding my library to include international field guides. I may never visit the regions covered by these guides, but I still hold an interest in their avifauna. This new volume covers the more than 430 species that breed or migrate through Britain and Europe, including accidental and escaped birds. Photographs help to identify species, and distribution maps and abundance diagrams show location and time of year these species may be encountered.

As a birder who grew up with the "Peterson system" of bird identification, I have an instant dislike of photographic field guides. This book reminded me why. There are two schools of thought on which method of depicting birds is better suited for a field guide. Those like myself who are used to field guides such as Peterson's believe birds are best portrayed by paintings using arrows to point out important diagnostic features. In the other camp, however, are those birders who believe a photograph more accurately portrays how a bird will be seen in the field. I believe a field guide should be able to teach the observer even the most subtle of fieldmarks well before going into the field. For this reason, the book fell short of my expectations. First, many of the photographs portray birds in postures not well suited for field identification. For instance, only the heads of the female Goosander and Honey Buzzard are shown, leaving a person who is unfamiliar with these species to read the text description to get a visual picture of the bird. The author notes that the photographs show species covered in typical stance and habitat. However, the Treecreeper, a bird much like our Brown Creeper, is shown in flight, not as described in the text as a small woodpecker like bird that creeps mouse-like, head up. Even more irritating are the photographs of several hand held warblers and what appears to be a very old and yellowed color photograph of a Great Shearwater. The author alludes to the fact that some photographs are not of the highest quality, but that in the case of rare birds any photograph is of immense value to the birdwatcher. I must disagree with the author on this point, especially when the main purpose of a field guide is to aid in identifying the bird being observed.

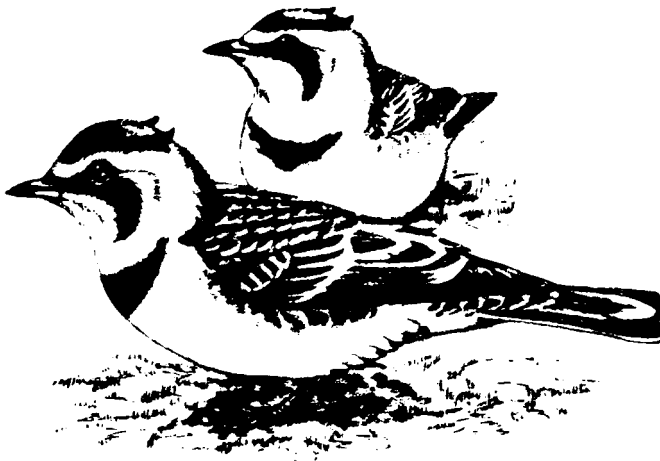
This book does have merit in the fact that the softbound edition is inexpensive, making it attractive to those interested in birds of this region who do not want to spend a large amount of money to place it on their library shelf. The colored distribution maps are well drawn. However, the inclusion of national boundaries would have made them more useful. The abundance diagrams are well conceived, using shading to denote by month whether a species is not seen, fairly frequent, or most abundant. Small symbols at the end of each species account denote habitats in which the bird will most likely be encountered. The habitat descriptions at the beginning of the book are well written and give the reader a basic idea of the region's ecology. This field guide also includes the typical line drawings showing wing, beak, and tail shapes, and general anatomy.

I would not recommend this book as a field guide for anyone traveling this region, however for those wishing to add an inexpensive volume to their library covering the birds of Britain and Europe this volume will serve that purpose. *Dennis Skadsen RR Box 113 Grenville, SD 57239.*

THE 1990/91 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

compiled by Dan Tallman
NSU 740, Aberdeen, SD 57401

ABERDEEN (ABR): 15 December 1990, compiler Everett Montgomery, temperatures 15-34°F, wind 10-15 mph, no snow cover, 10 observers. **BADLANDS (BAD):** 15 December 1990, compiler Joe Zarki and Barry Jones, light wind, 8 inches of snow on ground, temperatures 12 - 39°F 9 observers. **BROOKINGS (BRK):** 15 December 1990, compiler Nelda Holden, 10 observers, no further details. **DEUEL CO. (DUE):** 1 January 1991, compiler Bruce Harris, wind 5-10 mph, temperatures 0-10°F., 7 observers. **HOT SPRINGS (HOT):** 16 December 1990, compiler Richard Peterson, 2-5 inches of snow on ground, temperatures 10-42°F., 7 observers. **MADISON (MAD):** 20 December 1990, compiler Dave Gilbert, 15 observers, no further details. **PIERRE (PIR):** 16 December 1990, compiler R. W. Summerside, 19 observers, no further details. **RAPID CITY (RAP):** 19 December 1990, compiler Ester Serr, no further details. **SAND LAKE (SAN):** 19 December 1990, compiler Bill Schultze, wind 5 mph, 3 inches of snow on ground, temperatures -17 - 2°F., 10 observers. **SIoux FALLS (SIO):** not held this year. **STURGIS (STR):** 15 December 1990, compiler Ernie Miller, no wind, sunny, 6 inches of snow on ground, temperatures 18-38°F., 9 observers. **WAUBAY (WAU):** ? December 1990, compiler Doug Leschisin, no further details. **WILMOT (WIL):** 2 January 1991, compiler Bruce Harris, wind 5-10 mph, 1 inch of snow on ground, temperatures 0-8°F., 6 observers. **YANKTON (YAN):** 15 December 1990, compiler Willis Hall, 3-10 inches of snow on ground, temperatures 28-33°F., 11 observers.



	ABR	BAD	BRK	DUE	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	STR	WAU	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
Great Blue Heron			2		1			1						4
Snow Goose			2008			202			3					2213
Canada Goose	16		600		87	1065	22650	1	93	63	134		1	24710
Wood Duck								1	1					2
Green-winged Teal									3		5		1	9
Mallard	130		1153		93	2	7150	1583	254		66		5012	15443
Northern Pintail								5			1			6
Gadwall								3					29	32
American Wigeon								1	108					109
Redhead									1				4	5
Ring-necked Duck								2	3					5
Lesser Scaup								10					4	14
Scaup sp.													6	6
Common Goldeneye					13		63	111	1				21	209
Barrow's Goldeneye							2	1						3
Bufflehead								28					1	29
Common Merganser					6		145	31			1		1533	1716
Bald Eagle							27		2	3	1		44	77
Northern Harrier	1	8			2		7	1		1				20
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1						3					4
Cooper's Hawk									1					1
Goshawk			2					1						3
Accipiter sp.													1	1
Red-tailed Hawk		1				1	3	6		1	1		6	19
Ferruginous Hawk							1	3						4
Rough-legged Hawk	2	8			1	1	24	8		11			2	57
Buteo sp.			1							1			1	3
Golden Eagle		2			2		7	2		6				19
American Kestrel	2	3	6			2	3		1	2	2		2	23
Merlin		1					2							3
Prairie Falcon		1	2		1		2			1	1			6
Gyr Falcon							1							1
Gray Partridge				9		11				30	9	10		69
Ring-necked Pheasant	59	1	51	11	7	177	41	9	27		29	4	71	487
Greater Prairie-Chicken							2		2					2
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	32			40		34	23		16	15			161
Wld Turkey		13			492		48	403		462			4	1422
American Coot							1	13					6	20
Common Snipe										2				2
Ring-billed Gull							132						117	249
Herring Gull							10						7	17
Glaucous Gull													1	1
Gull sp.													35	35
Rock Dove	155	10	103	10	274	75	345	1112	14	99	16	44	108	2365
Mourning Dove			4			6	1							11
Eastern Screech-Owl			3											3
Great Horned Owl	2	7	16	2	1	4	9		8	1	2		1	53
Snowy Owl								2						2
Short-eared Owl	1	1												2
Belted Kingfisher			3		1		2	12					1	19
Lewis' Woodpecker										7				7
Red-bellied Woodpecker				1			2					1	3	7
Downy Woodpecker	11	6	25	4	2	6	16	15	6	11	6	21	13	142
Hairy Woodpecker	4	3	11	3	5		18	16	5	5	1	6	6	81
Black-backed Woodpecker									1					1
Northern Flicker	2	3	9		20		41	7	1	3	1		42	129
Horned Lark		534	139	5	132	1521	250	31	434	115	157	89	34	3441
Gray Jay								8						8
Blue Jay	17		35	1	6	22	13	68	10	48	1	5	18	244
Pinyon Jay					67			50						117
Black-billed Magpie		25			5		17	30		15			15	107

	ABR	BAD	BRK	DUE	HOT	MAD	PIR	RAP	SAN	STR	WAW	WIL	YAN	TOTALS
American Crow	18	1	51	2	223	69		158	1	79	38	30	144	814
Black-capped Chickadee	53	36	111	11	77	26	161	297	9	141	26	52	38	1038
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4		3	1	1	1	5	73		12	1			101
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	5	31	3	2	5	18	34	4	19	5	7	8	147
Brown Creeper			1		1	1	3	1			3		4	14
Golden-crowned Kinglet		2	7			1	2	10			2		2	26
Canyon Wren							5							5
Eastern Bluebird													21	21
Townsend's Solitaire		34			42		2	38		1				117
American Robin		192	1		45	1	106	35		3		1	47	431
Brown Thrasher									1					1
Northern Mockingbird							1							1
Bohemian Waxwing		41					6	275		99				421
Cedar Waxwing	156		26		51		85	145	18	15	25	20	42	581
Northern Shrike		1	3		3	2	5		3	1	4		2	24
European Starling	152		198	100	230	162	878	981	51	138	28	8	182	3084
Yellow-rumped Warbler		1											1	2
Northern Cardinal						3							8	9
Rufous-sided Towhee													1	1
American Tree Sparrow	9	487	144	26	85	43	188	66	22	9	75	80	69	1241
Chipping Sparrow							6							6
Song Sparrow													3	3
Harris' Sparrow		1						1						2
Dark-eyed Junco	6			3	236	35	53				3	14	71	423
Slate-colored Junco		17	115					413		228				771
Oregon Junco		1	1					20	1	9		1	1	34
White-winged Junco								207		28				235
Lapland Longspur		5	100				78			250	20			453
Snow Bunting				35					1			13		49
Red-winged Blackbird	6		40	30	122		300	1	120		40		140	799
Western Meadowlark		1					4			1				6
Rusty Blackbird				7								5		12
Brewer's Blackbird							1		1		3			5
Common Grackle	9		8	2			23	4	4				1	51
Brown-headed Cowbird			12				10							22
Rosy Finch		25												25
Purple Finch	8		33			15	10				10		11	85
Cassin's Finch								8						8
House Finch	9				10			10		8		1	35	73
Red Crossbill	1		40											41
Common Redpoll							2							2
Pine Siskin	48		29		86		42	377		121			12	715
American Goldfinch	34	13	85	15	41	56	75	128	110	125	30	35	92	819
Evening Grosbeak								81		309				390
House Sparrow	528	215	891	110	288	1656	357	817	377	389	90	110	498	6326
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1448	1720	6079	391	2783	5171	33511	7857	1580	2636	1080	557	8581	73394
TOTAL FORMS	30	37	41	22	39	29	67	59	29	42	36	23	57	106

THE 1990/91 WINTER SEASON

compiled by Dennis Skadsen
RR Box 113 Grenville, SD 57239

The season began with a very cold December, but temperatures were above normal for the remainder of the period, January and February. Temperatures reached into the 50's and even 70's during these two months. Again most observers reported below normal precipitation. As could be expected, this open winter left birders in the cold. A few species lingered into the season during December and a few even stayed to encourage Christmas counters. However the remainder of the season was rather boring. The only birds reported coming to feeders in any numbers were American Goldfinches. Several observers reported goldfinches in numbers not seen for several years while other finches, siskins, redpolls, and crossbills were rare. The most exciting observation for the season was the Mountain Chickadee coming to a feeder outside of Hot Springs. This is only the third observation of the species in South Dakota. Finally, a Varied Thrush was reported at a Sioux Falls feeder, but we do not know the details.

Please note the following correction to the Summer 1988 and 1990 season reports: Eastern Wood-Pewee — change date from 28 July to 28 June, Yankton Co., feeding young in nest (WH); Common Merganser — eliminate word "juvenile" from 28 July, Yankton Co. (WH).

OBSERVERS CITED:

Kathy Anderson (KA)	Mike Michael (MM)
Doug Backlund (DCB)	Ernest E. Miller (EEM)
Barbara Bernstein (BB)	Everett C. Montgomery (ECM)
Ken Graupmann (KG)	Marjorie J. Parker (MJP)
Willis Hall (WH)	Richard A. Peterson (RAP)
Bruce K. Harris (BKH)	Dennis R. Skadsen (DRS)
Jan Kieckhefer (JK)	Mark Skadsen (MS)
Robert Kieckhefer (RK)	Jerry C. Stanford (JCS)
Lester R. Lauritzen (LRL).	Nathaniel R. Whitney (NRW)
Michael M. Melius (MMM)	

ABBREVIATIONS USED: SLNWR — Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Brown County; WNWR — Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day County.

Pied-billed Grebe — 5 December, Buffalo Co. (BKH, ECM).
Great Blue Heron — 3 December, Yankton Co. (WH).
Tundra Swan — 9 December, Brown Co., 6 (JCS). 14 December, Deuel Co. (BKH).
Greater White-fronted Goose — 6 December, Charles Mix Co., 3 (BKH, ECM).
Snow Goose — 8 December, SLNWR, 2000 (JCS). 9 December, Hamlin Co., 13 (BKH).
15 December, Minnehaha Co., 80 overhead (MS).
Wood Duck — Wintered Spearfish City Park (DCB).
Green-winged Teal — 7 February, Yankton Co., EARLIEST EVER SPRING (BKH).
Gadwall — 7 February, Yankton Co., 6, EARLIEST EVER (BKH).
American Wigeon — 10 February, Fall River Co., EARLIEST EVER SPRING (RAP).
Redhead — 11 February, Yankton Co., 8 (WH).
Ring-necked Duck — 7 February, Yankton Co., 2 (BKH).
Greater Scaup — 7 February, Yankton Co., EARLIEST EVER SPRING (BKH).

- Lesser Scaup — 7 February, Yankton Co., 3, **EARLIEST EVER SPRING** (BKH).
 Barrow's Goldeneye — Male wintered on Canyon Lake (NRW).
 Bufflehead — 1, 16 December, Yankton Co. (WH). 6 February, Charles Mix Co., 3 (BKH).
 Hooded Merganser — 5 December, Buffalo Co., 2 (BKH, ECM).
 Common Merganser — 6 December, Yankton Co., 3200 (WH).
 Red-breasted Merganser—5 January, Ft. Randal, pair (MS).
 Bald Eagle — 5 December, Clark Co., 2 (BKH, ECM). 30 December, Deuel Co. (BKH). Also reported from Custer Co. (MMM); Fall River Co. (RAP); and Lawrence Co. (DCB).
 Northern Harrier — 5 December, Hand and Hughes counties (BKH, ECM). 18 December, Fall River Co., 2, and 11 February, Stanley Co., 2 (MMM). 13 January, Custer Co. (MJP). 7 February, Charles Mix Co. (BKH).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk — 15 December and 12 January, Lawrence Co., 2 (DCB). 2 December and 29 January through 2 February, Brookings Co. (JK, RK).
 Northern Goshawk — 3 December, Day Co. (WNWR). 19 December, Minnehaha Co. (MS).
 Ferruginous Hawk — 27 February, Pennington Co. (NRW). Rough-legged Hawk — 5 December, Pierre to Chamberlain, 10 (BKH, ECM). 15 December to 28 February, Custer Co. (MJP). 13 January, Fall River Co., 5 (RAP). 21 February, Pennington Co., 5 (MMM). 27 February, Pennington Co., 10 (NRW). Observed during period Jackson (KG), and Lawrence (DCB).
 Rough-legged Hawk—5 January, Ft. Randal (MS).
 Golden Eagle — 22 February, SLNWR, 2. Also reported from Custer Co. (MJP), Fall River Co. (RAP), Jackson Co. (KG), Lawrence Co. (DCB), Meade Co. (EEM), and Pennington Co. (NRW).
 Merlin — 4 December, Charles Mix Co., adult (MS). 6 December, Clark Co. (BKH, ECM). 5 February, Day Co. (DRS). 21 February, Fall River Co. (RAP).
 Peregrine Falcon — 1 December and 24 February, Custer Co. (MJP).
 Prairie Falcon — 9 February, Jackson Co. (KG). 11 February, Sully Co. (MMM).
 Greater Prairie-Chicken — 5 December, Clark Co. (BKH, ECM).
 American Coot — 2 December, (62) and 10 January, Yankton Co. (WH). 11 February, Pennington Co., 4 (NRW).
 Common Snipe — Wintered Lawrence Co. (DCB), and Meade Co., 2 (EEM).
 Glaucous Gull — 5 December, Buffalo Co. (BKH, ECM). 14 December, Yankton Co. (WH).
 Mourning Dove — 20 December, Faulk Co. (MMM).
 Great Horned Owl — 22 February, Deuel and Codington counties, adults on nests (BKH). 27 February, Pennington Co., adult on nest (NRW).
 Snowy Owl — 1, 7 December and 1 January, Deuel Co. (BKH). 1, 16, 17 December, Meade Co. (EEM). 4 February, Day Co. (WNWR). 8 February, Stanley Co. (KG).
 Short-eared Owl — 3 December, Day Co. (WNWR). 9 December, Deuel Co. (BKH). 26 December, Edmunds Co., 22 January, and 18 February, Custer Co. (MMM).
 Belted Kingfisher — Wintered Lawrence Co. (DCB), and Pennington Co. (NRW).
 Red-bellied Woodpecker — 2 January, Brookings Co. (JK, RK).
 Northern Flicker — 23 December and 18 February, Brown Co. (JCS). Observed throughout period in Deuel Co. (BKH), and Turner Co. (LRL), and Custer Co. (MJP).
 Horned Lark — 28 February, Jackson Co., flock 1/4 mile long with several 1000 birds (KG).
MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE — 3 January, Fall River Co., photographed, present most of season, **ONLY THIRD RECORD FOR STATE** (KA).
 Red-breasted Nuthatch — 1 December and 28 February, Brown Co., 2 (JCS). All season Custer, Deuel, and Pennington counties.
 Brown Creeper — 1 December and 28 February, Brown Co. (JCS). 3 December, WNWR

- American Robin — 2 December, Day Co. (WNWR). Wintered Meade (EEM), and Lawrence (DCB) counties.
- Bohemian Waxwing — 10 January, Pennington Co., 20 (NRW). 13 January, Fall River Co. (RAP). All season Lawrence Co. (DCB).
- Northern Shrike — 4 December, Charles Mix Co. (MS). 16 December, Custer Co., 2 (MJP). 28 January, Faulk Co. (MMM). 22 February, WNWR. 27 February, Pennington Co. (NRW). Also reported in Deuel, Grant, and Roberts counties (BKH), and Lawrence Co. (DCB).
- Northern Cardinal — 19 January, Brown Co. (JCS).
- American Tree Sparrow — 13 January, Jackson Co., retrapped bird originally banded in 1983. (KG).
- Song Sparrow — Wintered Lawrence Co. (DCB).
- Red-winged Blackbird — 14 December, Deuel Co., 50 (BKH). 16 December, Custer Co., 53 (MJP). 12 January, Brown Co., 150 (JCS).
- Eastern Meadowlark — 27 January, Fall River Co., 20 (MM).
- Western Meadowlark — 13 December, Yankton Co. (WH). 27 February, Pennington Co., 2 (NRW).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird — 9 December, Brown Co., 4 (JCS).
- Common Grackle — All season Deuel Co., 2 (BKH).
- Gray-crowned Rosy Finch — 18 February, Custer Co., 100 (MJP).
- Purple Finch — Only reported from Brown, Day, and Yankton counties.
- Cassin's Finch — 30 December, Custer Co., 2 (MJP). All season Lawrence Co., 2 (DCB).
- House Finch — 11 December, Roberts Co., male (BB, BKH). 11 February, Yankton Co., 45 present most of season (WH). One male all season Lawrence Co. (DCB). 25 February, Clay Co., 1 male (MS).
- Red Crossbill — Only reports from Brookings and Brown counties.
- Common Redpoll — Only reported from Brown, Custer, Deuel, and Lawrence counties.
- Pine Siskin — Only reports from Brookings, Brown, Custer, Deuel, Lawrence, Pennington, Roberts, and Yankton counties.



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