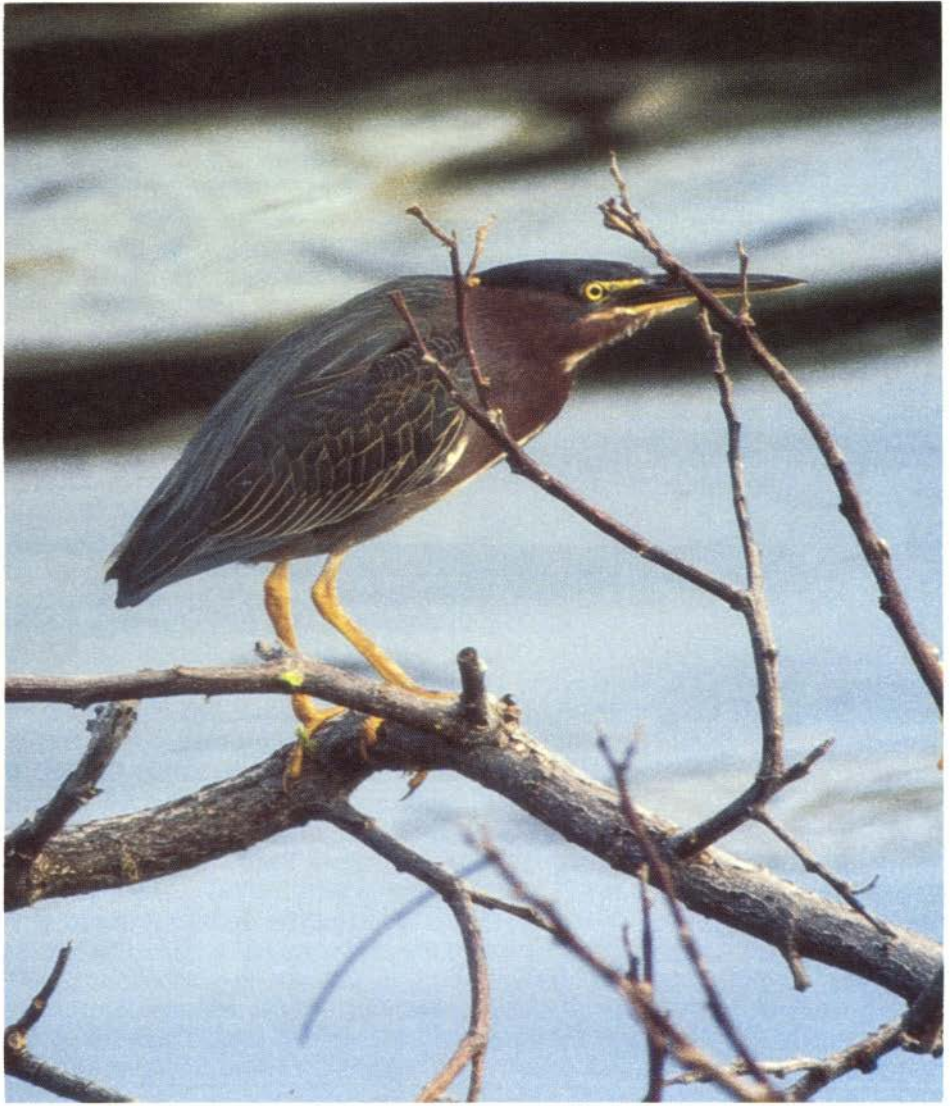

SOUTH DAKOTA
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



SOUTH
BIRD



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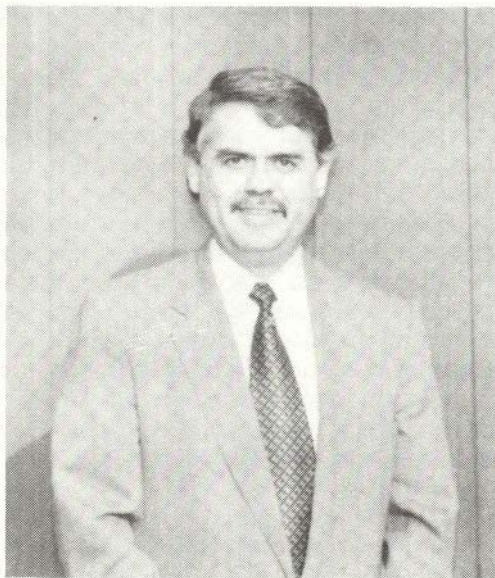
PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I am pleased and honored to write my first President's Page for *Bird Notes*. I was humbled when, a couple of years ago, I received a phone call from Dr. Gil Blankespoor asking me to consider this position. I am grateful to him and all the members of the Board of Directors for giving me this opportunity. The greatest thanks must go to my wonderful wife and best friend, Kristeen, for understanding and encouraging my passion for birds.

My interest in birds began as a young boy in Edmunds County. I was the self-appointed administrator of the Common Grackle/House Sparrow control program in the neighborhood. This program progressed from it's fledgling (no pun intended) state of crude slingshots made of Siberian Elm branches and old inner tubes (the red ones were the best) to the advanced technology of the lever action Daisy. This program was very species specific and effective. This activity was sort of a rite of passage in those days. I believe this behavior was acceptable for a boy of that era. I like to think that Norman Rockwell would have approved. If the program were still in effect, European Starlings would not have taken over the Red-headed Woodpecker hole in my neighbor's yard. (I could have expanded to three species if additions had warranted.)

The next logical progression for a South Dakota boy in the 1950's was to begin collecting specimens of gallinaceous birds and various waterfowl species. Obviously, these birds were not collected for the lab table, but, rather, for the dinner table. Hunting was an important part of my life for many ears. Although I no longer participate as much as I once did, the right to do so is cherished. This theme, I'm sure, is unpopular for many in the birding community. But I feel no need to apologize. My freezer contains no Bald Eagles and I fail to understand those who equate the eagle with the Ring-necked Pheasant.

Hoping not to further offend birders, I suggest that SDOU members should be grateful to hunters. Probably you as a birder have taken advantage of a National Wildlife Refuge or a Waterfowl Production Area. Much of the purchase price and management costs of those lands are paid for by hunters through the Federal Waterfowl Stamp revenues and



taxes on ammunition and firearms. Admittedly, those dollars do not cover all costs and other tax monies are needed. Supposedly, all productive citizens (including hunters) are providing those funds through income taxes.

In the future, everyone should be prepared to pay more in "revenue enhancements" (excuse the Clintonesque), if those areas are to be acquired, cared for, policed, and managed. How would you, as a birder, accept taxes on items such as binoculars, cameras, field guides, etc.? Would you favor access stamps, such as the Federal Waterfowl stamp to be paid by everyone who used those areas? As preservationists use their money and declare the sport of hunting to be "socially unacceptable" behavior, those of us who want to participate in the so-called nonconsumptive activities on Federal lands should be prepared to pay a larger share of the bill.

The original intent in the purchase of refuges and the WPA's was to provide nesting habitat and migration stop-over places for waterfowl. The result has been that these areas have helped to sustain waterfowl populations. They have also enormously helped other birds. Many of the rarer breeding species in our state are found primarily in these areas. At least some of the success of these breeding species has to be attributed to the funds provided by hunters. At times, some nonhunters may be just a little too quick to judge. Everything is not always black and white. *J. David Williams, Box 277, Ipswich 57451.*

A REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE CAROLINA WREN IN SOUTH DAKOTA

David L. Swanson

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57069.

Introduction

The Carolina Wren is listed as a casual visitor in South Dakota (SDOU 1991). This listing is based on 19 records accepted by the South Dakota Bird Records Committee (SDBRC; Harris 1987, SDOU 1991, Howitz 1991, Dean et al. 1993). An additional record that has yet to be acted on by the SDBRC is of a juvenile Carolina Wren banded and photographed on 10 August 1993 in Clay County by Eric Liknes and Kurt Dean.

The breeding range of the Carolina Wren is mainly in the Southeastern United States. The northern and western boundaries of this range occur in Southeastern Nebraska and Southern and Central Iowa (Johnsgard 1979, Dinsmore et al. 1984, Ducey 1988). The northern boundary extends from Eastern Iowa across Southeastern Wisconsin, Southern Michigan and Ontario, to the Atlantic coast through Southern New England (AOU 1983). Throughout the breeding range, Carolina Wrens are nonmigratory and pairs remain on breeding territories year-round (Ehrlich et al. 1988). The northern range boundary is variable and

retreats southward after severe winters (Root 1988). This variability is thought to result from juveniles that disperse into northern areas. These young subsequently die off during cold, snowy winters. Newly dispersing juveniles eventually reoccupy these vacated northern regions (Bent 1948, Root 1988).

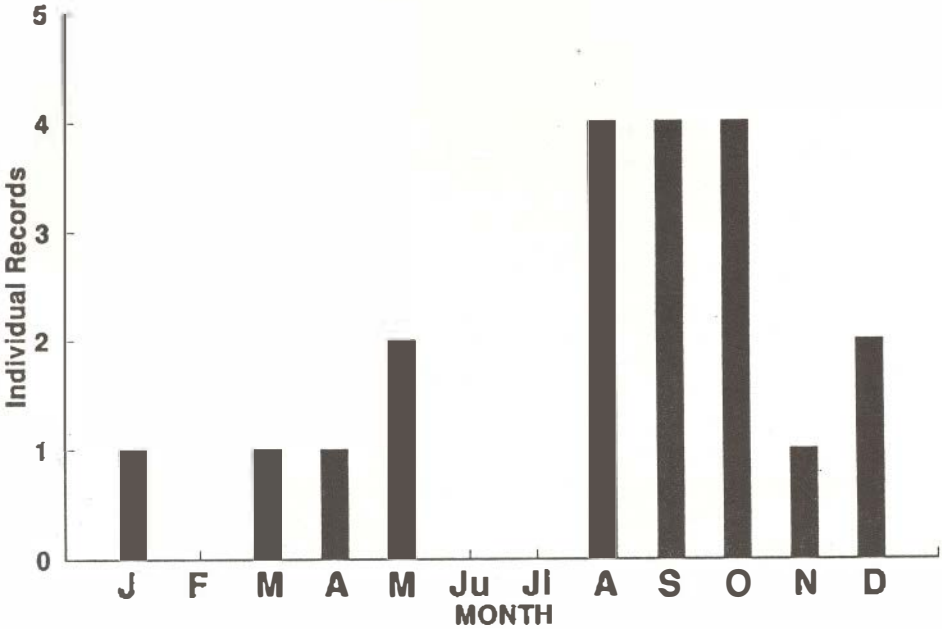


Figure 1: Carolina Wren records for South Dakota by month. Some records are of birds that were first observed in one month and stayed into the next month. In these cases, only the date when first observed is plotted.

The timing of this postbreeding dispersal of juveniles is necessarily dependent on the timing of Carolina Wren nesting and fledging. Nesting dates for prairie states include: 18 March - 1 August for Oklahoma (Baumgartner and Baumgartner 1992), 11 April - 10 August for Kansas (Johnsgard 1979), and late April - July for Iowa (Dinsmore et al. 1984). The incubation and nestling period are both 12 - 14 days (Ehrlich et al. 1988). If we assume that nesting begins about 1 May in breeding areas closest to South Dakota, then fledging would not occur before approximately 1 June at the earliest. If we further assume that recently fledged birds remain in the general area of the nest for a minimum of three weeks following fledging (Gill 1990), then juveniles would not be ready to disperse before early July.

It is the intent of this paper to review the records for the Carolina Wren in South Dakota to determine if seasonal and geographic patterns

of occurrence within the state are in accord with a pattern of postbreeding dispersal from nearby breeding areas.

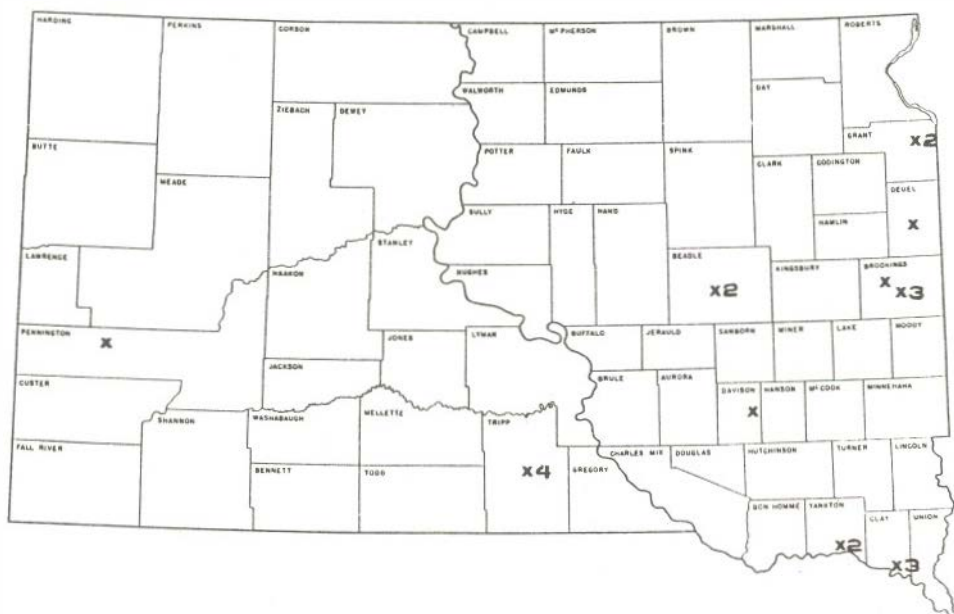


Figure 2: Geographic occurrence of Carolina Wren records in South Dakota. Each "X" marks the location of a record and numbers to the right of the "X" indicate the number of observations at that location.

Carolina Wren Records in South Dakota

Carolina Wren records for South Dakota are listed by month in Figure 1. The early fall period (August-October) accounts for 60% of the total records. Four additional November-January records may represent late dispersing birds or stragglers from earlier dispersals that are retreating southward. If these later records are included with the early fall records as representing postbreeding dispersal, then records from the period of postbreeding dispersal account for 80% of all Carolina Wren records within the state. This contrasts with only 20% of the records attributable to spring (March-May) vagrancy.

Most Carolina Wren records are from southeastern and eastern portions of the state (Figure 2). These are the areas closest to the breeding range of the Carolina Wren in Nebraska and Iowa. Thus, both seasonal and geographic patterns of occurrence are consistent with a pattern of northward postbreeding dispersal, probably principally composed of hatching-year birds.

Patterns of Carolina Wren Occurrence in Neighboring States and Canada

To put the pattern of Carolina Wren occurrence in South Dakota into a broader perspective, patterns of occurrence in nearby areas must also be considered. The Carolina Wren regularly breeds in Southeastern SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES 45(24): 62

Nebraska, where it is listed as an occasional nester (Ducey 1988), and in Iowa, where it is considered a rare permanent resident in the south and east (Dinsmore et al. 1984). Stephens (1957) lists the Carolina Wren as a wanderer to Dakota County in extreme Northeastern Nebraska and provides a summer record of 23 July 1954. Nesting records also exist for Minnesota, but none are recent, even though there have been some recent summer observations (Janssen 1987, Tessen 1993).

In Canada, the Carolina Wren regularly nests in Southern Ontario, but, outside of this breeding range, it is considered a rare wanderer (Godfrey 1986). All extralimital records listed by Godfrey (1986) are from fall or winter and recent records from Alberta (21 August 1987; Harris 1988) and Manitoba (1-16 October 1992; Koes and Taylor 1993) are also consistent with postbreeding dispersal. Most records outside of the breeding season in Minnesota are from spring migration, while fewer fall records exist and most of these are from October and November (Janssen 1987). In recent years (1988-1992), Carolina Wren records in Minnesota have been almost evenly distributed between spring and fall (seven fall records and six spring records; Carlson et al. Season Reports in *The Loon*). Verified records are lacking for the Carolina Wren in North Dakota, although there is a possible sight record from 25 September 1955 (G. Berkey, pers. comm.). There is one record of the Carolina Wren in Wyoming, 8 May 1977, near Casper (Scott 1993).

These records are generally consistent with a primary pattern of northward postbreeding dispersal and a secondary pattern of spring vagrancy. The Minnesota records are somewhat more problematic in that spring records appear to be at least as common as fall records. Given the past breeding records for Carolina Wrens in Minnesota and the proximity to breeding areas in Southern Wisconsin, perhaps some of these spring records are from breeding birds. However, summer records for Minnesota are far fewer than spring records.

Summary and Conclusions

Since Carolina Wrens show a northward postbreeding dispersal, the best time to observe them in South Dakota is in the fall (August-December). Because of recent mild winters, Carolina Wren populations are expanding in northern regions of their breeding range, including Ontario (Weir 1992), Michigan and Wisconsin (Tessen 1993), and Iowa (Silcock 1993). In addition, there have been four records for South Dakota in the past two falls (Dean et al. 1993, SDBRC files). This suggests that today, the Carolina Wren is a rare, but regular, fall visitant to South Dakota. Furthermore, if the string of mild winters continues, the Carolina Wren should be looked for as a prospective breeding species in the southeastern and eastern portions of the state in appropriate habitat (open deciduous woodland with good cover, especially with cavities present; Ehrlich et al. 1988).

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GENERAL NOTES

A NEW SOUTH DAKOTA BIG DAY RECORD. Imagine three Great Lakes area Big Dayers, used to seeing such birds as Pied-billed Grebe, Whip-poor-will, American Kestrel, screech-owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, and Indigo Bunting. Now imagine their racing madly around Southwest South Dakota, listing such birds as Western Grebe, Common Poorwill, Prairie Falcon, Burrowing Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, Sage Thrasher, and Lazuli Bunting. You must now have an idea of the great fun we had on our 8 July South Dakota Big Day.

Our (Bob Kemp, Eric Durban, and me) plan hatched several months ago, when we noted the South Dakota Big Day record was 144, a total we thought could be beat. By checking range maps, I projected a conservative count of 160 for the southwest corner of the state. With Richard Peterson's *A Birdwatcher's Guide to the Black Hills* and the Lacreek NWR checklist in hand, I began to put together a route that included the western species of the Black Hills, birds of the adjacent prairie, and waterbirds of Lacreek. Taking a hint from some other western states, whose Big Day records are from summer, I planned an early July date. This would guarantee most of the breeding birds would still be active and give us a shot at some migrant shorebirds. As it turned out, the plan worked almost to perfection.

Our two days of scouting, one a Lacreek and the other in the Black Hills, produced 151 species. We knew we had enough birds along the route to break the record. What we didn't know was how many misses we would have.

After a few hours of sleep on the evening of the 7th, we woke to high winds, not good conditions for calling night birds. But we got lucky with a Common Poorwill at 12:15 AM and about an hour later enticed a screech-owl to call back from a cottonwood grove. Luckily, a front passed through and the winds died by the time we reached our daybreak spot near Spearfish Canyon. We chose an area with considerable aspen and birch, so early morning birds included Veery, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Ovenbird, American Redstart and MacGillivray's Warbler; a nearby feeder had Blue Jays, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Cassin's Finch, Siskins, and juncos. Calling Red-naped Sapsuckers, Cordilleran Flycatchers, and Western Tanagers just about completed our list of wanted birds here, so we moved on to our dipper location.

We got the dipper and added a few other good birds—Dusky Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Townsend's Solitaire. Our next stop, in spruce forest, netted both kinglet species and Gray Jay. We headed for a spot where we found Three-toed woodpecker the day before. On the way we flushed two turkeys from the roadside, a bird we really didn't expect to get. Unfortunately, the woodpecker did not show. We hurried to a meadow that had Eastern Bluebirds., which were chasing a Mountain Bluebird. We continued on to a Sharp-shinned Hawk territory. The hawk was there and we were surprised by some Red Crossbills in the same place.

With loose gravel flying from the tire at every turn, we sped on towards Reynold's Prairie and Vesper Sparrows and Brewer's Blackbirds. Next stop: Custer State Park for Black-backed Woodpeckers. We found them and tallied a Brown Creeper, too.

Directed by Peterson's book, on the way to the Edgemont area, we listed Sage Thrasher and Brewer's Sparrow. We also saw Lark Bunting, Lark Sparrow, and others (but missed staked out Pinyon Jays in Edgemont). We made our way to a small canyon northeast of town. Here the birds came quickly, as we added Red-headed Woodpecker, Rock Wren, Lazuli Bunting, both orioles, magpie, and Golden Eagle! Within ten minutes, on the way to Hot Springs, we spotted two Prairie Falcons sitting on top of telephone poles, life birds for Eric.

Just after noon we only had two more stops in the Black Hills, one for Solitary Vireo and the other for Lewis' Woodpecker. Heading east onto the plains, we stopped near Oral for Say's Phoebe and Indigo Bunting. A Swainson's Hawk nest was spotted nearby. East of Oelrichs, we had scouted Long-billed Curlew and Chestnut-collared Longspur. The longspurs were obvious and common, but the curlews were nowhere to be seen—a disappointing miss. Other birds nearby were Burrowing Owl and Upland Sandpiper.

As we gassed up in Martin at 4 PM, the list showed 105 species; 40 more would break the record. With Lacreek's varied habitats of prairie, marsh, and scattered groves of trees, we knew we had a good chance. Birds came fast and furious at Lacreek. We added Dickcissel, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark. A check of the trout ponds found Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Duck, Least Flycatcher, Downy Woodpecker, and more. Marsh Wrens and Swamp Sparrows sang. Black Terns flew by.

Moving on to the main ponds netted us Bell's Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Sora, Virginia Rail, and White Pelican. But the best was yet to come. A drawn-down pond was teeming with ducks and shorebirds. There were eight species of ducks and 15 shorebird species in the pond! Highlights included American Avocets and Marbled Godwits, Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers. Although we're not quite sure, we think Semipalmated Sandpiper was the bird that broke the record. Other species added over the next hour included Trumpeter Swan, Western Grebe, American Bittern, Canvasback, and Great Crested Flycatcher. Our last two birds of the day were Gray Catbird and Rough-winged Swallow, bringing us to 154 species. We continued birding for another hour or so, in hopes of seeing kingfisher or Short-eared Owl, but to no avail.

Western Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Am. White Pelican
Double-crested
Cormorant
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Black-crowned
Night-heron
Trumpeter Swan
Canada Goose
Wood Duck

Green-winged Teal
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
American Wigeon
Gadwall
Canvasback
Redhead
Turkey Vulture
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk

Swainson's hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Golden Eagle
American Kestrel
Prairie Falcon
Ring-necked
Pheasant
Wild Turkey
Virginia Rail
Sora
American Coot
Killdeer

American Avocet
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Willet
Spotted Sandpiper
Upland Sandpiper
Marbled Godwit
Semipalmated
Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Stilt Sandpiper
Short-billed
Dowitcher
Common Snipe
Wilson's Phalarope
Ring-billed Gull
Forster's Tern
Black Tern
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl
Burrowing Owl
Common Nighthawk
Common Poorwill
Chimney Swift
White-throated Swift
Lewis' Woodpecker
Red-headed
Woodpecker
Red-naped
Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Black-backed
Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Western Wood-Pewee
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Cordilleran
Flycatcher

Say's Phoebe
Great Crested Fly-
catcher
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Violet-green swallow
Rough-winged
Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Gray Jay
Blue Jay
Black-billed Magpie
American Crow
Black-capped
Chickadee
Red-breasted
Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Rock Wren
House Wren
Marsh Wren
American Dipper
Golden-crowned
Kinglet
Ruby-crowned
Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Veery
Swainson's Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Sage Thrasher
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Loggerhead Shrike
European Starling
Bell's Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped
Warbler

American Redstart
Ovenbird
MacGillivray's
Warbler
Common
Yellowthroat
Yellow-breasted Chat
Western Tanager
Black-headed
Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Rufous-sided Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper
Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Chestnut-collared
Longspur
Bobolink
Red-wing Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed
Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed
Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Northern Oriole
Cassin's Finch
House Finch
Red Crossbill
Pine siskin
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Thomas Kemp, 7021 Manor Road, Whitehouse, OH 43571.

UNUSUAL PHILOPATRY IN THE NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL.
Philopatry means a love for homeland. On 12 October 1993, I netted a Northern Saw-whet Owl in my backyard at 1709 North Jay Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota. Since I first reported banding this elusive owl in *Bird Notes* 39:16, I regularly catch a dozen or fewer Saw-whet Owls in October of each year. I assume the species is mainly a migrant in the

area, since I do not catch them in the summer or after October (except for one spring record).

I caught this owl, as I do most saw-whets, just before dawn. The bird was alert and relatively untangled in the net. Because I had an 8 AM class and I knew my biology students would be amazed by such an exotic owl, I brought the banded bird to class. We released the bird at Northern State University at about 8:10 in the morning. The bird flew strongly to a nearby tree and disappeared into the fall foliage.

Imagine my surprise the next morning upon catching the same, banded Saw-whet Owl back at my home. Sometime after we released it, the owl flew about 34 blocks back to my house. I am surprised a bird, presumably migrating south in the fall, would return in a northward direction. I am also surprised that a bird, presumably moving through the Aberdeen area, would return to the point of banding, if the bird was in a strange area. Is my backyard especially attractive to this species? *Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.*

HOSPITAL INADVERTENTLY TRAPS AND KILLS MIGRANT BIRDS. On 22 September 1993, Suurmeyer alerted Tallman to a number of birds trapped in a glass enclosure on top of a parking canopy at the new wing of St. Luke's Dakota Midland Hospital, downtown campus. Tallman discovered about 20 Clay-colored Sparrows trapped by the window. The next time Tallman checked the hospital, on 18 October 1993, the window contained about 10 Savanna Sparrows.

The canopy (Figure 1) is about 30 feet high, tall enough to allow trucks to park underneath, at the entrance to the new emergency wards. On top of the canopy is a glass pyramid, about four or five feet tall and about 10 feet square at the base. The canopy roof projects about a foot beyond the inner base of the pyramid. This feature thwarts the escape of birds that fly up into the pyramid. Rather than dropping two feet to the underside of the canopy's roof, the birds, after they bash themselves against the glass, drop to the ledge. What is particularly surprising about this situation is that the habitat surrounding the canopy is almost devoid of sparrow habitat; for a half block to a block in all directions the landscape is paved.

On Tallman's first visit, he found a dead Clay-colored Sparrow. The bird's crown was bald and bloody. The driveway under the canopy was spotted with bird droppings. Thinking that the hospital would want to be alerted to this potential source of contamination and figuring the staff would wish to humanely solve this problem, Tallman spoke to the hospital head administrator. Fixing the problem would only require minor netting or some other deterrent to the birds' perching on the ledge. Apparently the hospital is planning to place spikes on the ledge, although by November the problem had not been remedied. Tallman also called our county Conservation Officer, who spoke with the hospital staff and workmen. The workmen reported finding other dead birds but responded to the Conservation

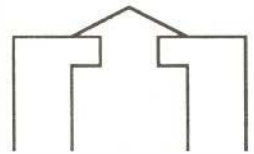


Figure 1. A simple diagram of the cross section of the entryway.

Officer by asking, "Who cares about little birds?" These little birds are Federally protected migrants, thus the killing of them is against the law. Robert Suunneyer, 20 13th Ave, NW, Aberdeen SD 57401 and Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

RED KNOTS IN FAULK COUNTY. I birded Christensen Waterfowl Production Area near Faulkton, Faulk County, during the SDOU spring meeting on 23 May 1993. At 11:30 AM, I observed two shorebirds foraging and resting on some mudflats surrounding a large, marshy pond. The birds were Red Knots. Lisa Swanson, Eric Liknes and Robert and Nancy Buckman also saw these birds. At the time of observation, the sky was overcast, but light conditions were fair, which was an improvement over the rainy conditions we experienced earlier that morning. The birds were observed for about 5 min through a 60 X spotting scope, at a distance of about 60 meters. An effort to relocate the birds after the picnic at 12:30 - 1:00 pm failed.

These birds were rather chunky-bodied shorebirds with relatively short necks and legs. The bills were black, straight, relatively thin, and were slightly longer than the length of the head. The most obvious feature on the birds was the almost cherry-red color on the face, neck, breast and upper belly. The lower belly and undertail coverts were white and the back was brownish. The brownish color of the back blended evenly into the brownish-gray wings. The birds were approximately the same size as nearby Killdeer. These birds foraged by probing into the mud, rather than the sewing machine-like motion used by dowitchers

Similar species include the dowitchers, which can also show extensive red on the underparts. However, in dowitchers, the red tends more toward brick-red than cherry-red. In addition, the bills on dowitchers are longer, at least twice as long as the length of the head and their foraging behavior differs, as mentioned above. Hudsonian Godwits are also red on the underparts, but these were eliminated by their larger size and long, upturned bill.

Red Knots are listed as a casual migrant for South Dakota on the basis of six records (Harris 1987, SDBN 39:69; SDOU 1991, *The Birds of South Dakota*, NSU Press, Aberdeen). There have been two additional recent records for the state: eight on 25 May 1990 at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Bennett County, and one on 28 May 1991 at Milwaukee Lake, Lake County (Springer 1992, SDBN 44:38-40) providing a total of eight previous records. This record has been reviewed and accepted by the South Dakota Rare Bird Records Committee. David Swanson, Department of Biology, USD, Vermillion, SD 57069.



BOOK REVIEWS

HOW BIRDS FLY.—David Goodnow. Periwinkle Books, Columbia MD. Soft Bound. 92 pp. \$15.95.

Most birders will want to own this book. At 92 pages and a price of \$15.95, this book is both an inexpensive and a short, nontechnical description of bird flight. The first third of this text, with full page illustrations with written descriptions of the action opposite, follows the upward and downward strokes of a Canada Goose in flight. The center pages contain color photographs of a variety of flying birds. The remainder of the book covers feathers and flight dynamics. Most pages contain at least a half page black and white drawing or photograph that describe the principles in the text. The last chapter rather incongruously covers Ruffed Grouse drumming, which has nothing to do with flying and which ignores a host of other uses of wings for sound or movement.

The book ends with a two-page index that seems adequate for answering the specific questions birders are always asked about bird flight. For example, "What is the unction of the alula, the little tuft of feathers towards the ends of the wings?" The index gives you six references, and you quickly and easily learn, in clear and nontechnical language, about air breaks and just how these feathers prevent stalling out at low speeds. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

BIRDS OF EUROPE. with North Africa and the Middle East—Lars Jonsson. Princeton Universtiy Press, Princeton. 559 pp. \$39.50.

This field guide is fun because most of the plates are works of art rather than highly skilled draftsmanship, the standard fare in other guides. I first saw Jonsson's work when I reviewed the book, *Masterpieces of Bird Art*. His work dazzled me then and still does in the *Birds of Europe*. Some of the backgrounds are as dazzling as the birds (for example, the water behind the goldeneye). Others, like outlines of cattails behind some of the warblers, artistically suggest habitat.

The question is, however, does one want works of art in a field guide or is draftsmanship preferable? Jonsson's waterfowl are among the book's most superb plates. Although in striking poses, I wonder about the identification utility of ducks (Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Oldsquaw, Common and White-winged Scoters) looking straight at the observer. Perhaps these poses result from a philosophy that birds should be identified holistically rather than from individual parts. However, this does not preclude the possibility of identifying difficult species. Immature gulls are well represented. Small differences between the notoriously difficult to identify European warblers are also depicted and mentioned in the brief species accounts.

Despite the plates' uniform excellence, a few aspects of the paintings bothered me. Many of the passerines seem bottom heavy and fluffed up (the European Robin, and Blackcap in particular). This tendency is also

noticeable in birds, for example the vireos and wood warblers, familiar to North Americans. His Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Oriole are simply misshapen. This may be the result of Jonsson's painting birds with which he is not familiar. My only other criticism is that his portraits of flying birds are rather flat.

Highlights of the book for North American birders include four pages on jaeger identification, including 36 portraits of the three species. Excellent pictures of Pectoral, Sharp-tailed, Buff-breasted Sandpipers and the Ruff occur on one page. The two European species should be looked for in South Dakota but, side by side comparisons of the species are lacking in other field guides. The paintings of the other shorebirds are also excellent.

The book's first pages contain an excellent introduction to birding. Included are concise discussions of what to look for, terminology, parts, molt, plumages, variation, behavior, migration, rare birds and systematics. This later subject includes a list of families with small pictures in the margins that should serve as a key for beginning birders. I am critical about two aspects of the book. First, the range maps are so tiny as to be of little use, especially for those of us who have not been brought up knowing the precise political boundaries of Europe. (On the other hand, the maps are usually very close to their species' accounts, if not on the same page). Second, bird calls are given phonetically rather than by sonagrams. Having been translated from Swedish, the fidelity of these voice descriptions gives me cause for concern.

The bottom line is that, if I were to return to Europe and take along only one bird book, I would take this field guide. It is pretty to look at and I suspect it will help identify difficult to separate species. However, more serious birders will probably also appreciate taking backup books as well. Dan Tallman, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD 57401.



SEASONAL REPORTS

THE 1993 BREEDING SEASON

Compiled by Dennis Skadsen
RR Box 113
Grenville, SD 57239

Again we missed summer! The entire state experienced below normal temperatures and above average precipitation. Flooding occurred throughout the eastern third of South Dakota. Many areas received 8 to 10 inch cloudbursts. On 24 July, Day County received anywhere from 6 to 11 inches in 5 hours, raising 955 acre Pickerel Lake by almost 2 feet in a few hours. Flooding occurred on Lake Kampeska, Madison Lake, Lake Vermillion, Lake Herman, etc., along with most major rivers and

streams in Eastern South Dakota. These weather patterns were attributed to El Niño. One can assume this weather had an affect on birds, especially ground-nesting species.

Trends for this season include several late migrating warblers and more observations than usual for Caspian Terns and Northern Mockingbirds. Determined participants of the SD Breeding Bird Atlas Project found first ever nesting evidence for Sedge Wren and rarely observed Swamp Sparrow nests.

Observers cited:

DB - Doug Backlund
JLB - Jocelyn L. Baker
SB - Susan Boettcher
CC - Charley Cimburek
KD - Kurt Dean
BKH - Bruce K. Harris
AH - Augie Hoeger
JAK - Jan A. Kleckhefer
KJK - Karla J. Kleckhefer
LRL - Lester R. Lauritzen
EL - Eric Liknes
JL - Jon Little
MMM - Michael M. Meltus
EEM - Ernest E. Miller
JSP - Jeffrey S. Palmer

JLP - Juanita L. Peterson
RAP - Richard A. Peterson
NP - Nathan Pieplow
MP - M. Porter
HS - H. Schulte
DRS - Dennis R. Skadsen
PFS - Paul F. Springer
JCS - Jerry C. Stanford
DS - David Swanson
LS - Lisa Swanson
DAT - Dan A. Tallman
NRW - Nat R. Whitney
R&MW - Ron & Mary Wick
JDW - J. David Williams
MZ - MyRon Zimmer

Abbreviations used:

HBSP - Hartford Beach State Park, Roberts Co.; LNWR - Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Bennett Co.; NHSP - Newton Hills State Park, Lincoln Co.; PLSRA - Pickerel Lake State Recreation Area, Day Co.; SHSP - Sica Hollow State Park, Marshall Co.; SLNWR - Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Brown Co.; WNWR - Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Day Co.

Eared Grebe - 10 June, colony of 12 nests Nelson WPA, and 16 June, colony of several hundred nest w/eggs, Stone Lake, Sully Co. (DB). 28 June, Clark Co., 220 nests in colony (BKH). 3 July, Minnehaha Co., adults feeding young (JL).

Western Grebe - 16 June, Sully Co., Stone Lake, nesting colony (DB).

Least Bittern - 29 June, Jerauld Co. (JLB).

Great Egret - 16 July, Kingsbury Co., 150 nests (BKH). Also reported from Day and Marshall (DRS) counties.

Snowy Egret - 29 July, Day Co. (JCS).

Little Blue Heron - 28 June, Clark Co., WPA (BKH).

Cattle Egret - 11 June, Dewey Co. (DAT). 10 July, Day Co., 15 (JCS).

Green-backed Heron - 10 June, PLSRA, nest w/3 eggs (DRS).

White-faced Ibis - 10 June, Codington Co., and 6 July, Day Co., 2 (WNWR). 26 June, Roberts Co. (JSP).

Greater White-fronted Goose - 20 July, SLNWR (JCS).

Snow Goose - 6 June, Roberts Co., and 22 June, Clay Co. (BKH). 15 June, Clay Co. (DS, EL). 20 July, SLNWR (JCS).

Green-winged Teal - 5 June, Turner Co., nest w/9 eggs (JL).

Redhead - 22 June, Bon Homme Co., 60+ (BKH).

Bufflehead - 28 June, Clark Co., WPA, female (BKH). Hooded Merganser - 7 July, Meade Co., female (NRW).

Turkey Vulture - 13 June, WNWR (WNWR). 20 June, Minnehaha Co., 2 (AH).

- Osprey - Pair nesting below Pactola Dam (NRW). 11, 12, 15 July Meade Co. (EEM).
- Bald Eagle - 6 June, HBSP, and 22 June, Bon Homme Co., in m. (BKH). 17 June, Clay Co. (EL).
- Cooper's Hawk - 2 June, Marshall Co. (PFS). Also reported from Day (DRS), Deuel and Roberts (BKH) counties.
- Broad-winged Hawk - 2 June, SHSP, 3, possibly nesting (PFS).
- Ferruginous Hawk - 24 June, Roberts Co., pair, and 26 June, SLNWR (JLB). 14 July, Brown Co. (RAP, JLP). 19 July, Meade Co., nest w/3 young (EEM).
- Golden Eagle - 19 June, Campbell & Walworth counties (JCS). 19 July, Meade Co., two nests observed (EEM).
- Virginia Rail - 16 June, Sully Co., 12 flushed from edge of lake (DB). 29 June, Jerauld Co., calling (JLB). 20 July, Lawrence Co., calling (BKH).
- American Coot - 3 June, Roberts Co., just hatched young, very early nest attempt (BKH).
- Sandhill Crane - 7 July, Meade Co., adult (NRW).
- Semipalmated Plover - 26 July, Roberts Co. (BKH).
- Piping Plover - 15 June, Union Co. (DS, EL).
- Greater Yellowlegs - 28 June, Hughes Co., 4 (BKH).
- Upland Sandpiper - 4 June, Hughes Co., nest w/eggs (DB).
- Long-billed Curlew - 29 May, Custer Co., 8 adults w/3 downy young (NRW).
- Marbled Godwit - 28 June, Hughes Co., 19 (BKH). 8 July, Edmunds Co., 50+ (MZ).
- Sanderling - 16 July, Kingsbury Co., early (BKH).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper - 28 June, Hughes Co., 8, early fall birds? (BKH).
- Baird's Sandpiper - 3 June, McPherson Co., late (JSP).
- Short-billed Dowitcher - 17 July, LNWR, 8 (BKH). Franklin's Gull - 30 July, Roberts Co., 5000+ (BKH).
- Caspian Tern - 17 June, Deuel Co., Lake Cochrane (SB). 18 June, Brown Co., flying over Aberdeen, and 23 June, Hughes Co. (DAT). 22 June, Yankton Co., Gavin's Pt. (BKH). 30 June, Hughes Co. (DB, BKH). 31 July, Roberts Co., Bullhead Lake (BKH).
- Common Tern - 3 July, Stanley Co., Oahe Dam, adult carrying food, possibly nesting (BKH).
- Forster's Tern - 16 June, Sully Co., Stone Lake, nesting colony, 12 nests w/eggs (DB).
- Least Tern - 15 June, Union Co., 2 (DS, EL). 22 June, Clay Co., 2 (BKH).
- Black-billed Cuckoo - Reported from Brown (JCS), Jerauld (DB), Lyman (NRW), Minnehaha (JL), Roberts (BKH), and Tripp - nested (RAP, JLP) counties.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 18 June, Edmunds Co. (MZ). 22 June, Clay Co. (BKH).
- Eastern Screech-Owl - 7 June, Deuel Co., nestling observed (BKH).
- Long-eared Owl - 2 June, Marshall Co., calling (PFS). 5 June, Stanley Co., adult on nest (DB).
- Short-eared Owl - 3 June, McPherson Co. (JSP).
- Common Poorwill - Only report from Pennington Co. (MMM).
- Chimney Swift - 5 July, Edmunds Co., nest w/2 eggs (MZ).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 9 June through period, Roberts Co., Sodak Park (BKH). 11 June, Deuel Co., Gary (HS). 24 June, Edmunds Co. (MZ).
- Red-headed Woodpecker - Reported from Turner Co. (LRL).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 2 June, Marshall Co. (PFS).
- Red-naped Sapsucker - 2 July, Lawrence Co., 2 nests (BKH). 10 July, Lawrence Co., adult feeding young in cavity (JLB).
- Downy Woodpecker - 11 July, PLSRA, nest w/young (DRS).
- Three-toed Woodpecker - Reported from Lawrence Co. (BKH) and (MMM) fledged young.
- Black-backed Woodpecker - Reported from Pennington Co. (MMM) (BKH).
- Northern Flicker - Reported nesting in Brown Co. (JCS).

Pileated Woodpecker - 10 July, HBSP, (JAK).
 Olive-sided Flycatcher - 2 June, Marshall Co. (PFS). 2 June, Deuel Co. (BKH). 4 June, Minnehaha Co., 2 (NP). Very late dates.
 Eastern Wood-Pewee - 26-31 July, Minnehaha Co., nest w/young (JL).
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - 2 June, Union Co. (DS, KD, EL).
 Eastern Kingbird - Reported nesting in Brown (JCS) and Minnehaha (JL) counties.
 Alder Flycatcher - 4 June, Lake Co., latest ever (JSP).
 Willow Flycatcher - 6 June, Turner Co., adult carrying food, and 20 June, 3 July, Minnehaha Co., 2 nests w/eggs (JL). Also reported from Day (DRS), and Lake (JSP) counties.
 Cordilleran Flycatcher - 11 July, Lawrence Co., nest w/4 young, young fledged 14 July (R&MW fide NRW).
 Eastern Phoebe - Reported from Day (DRS), Edmunds (MZ), and Roberts - nesting (BKH) counties.
 Great Crested Flycatcher - Reported from Brule & Custer (NRW), Day (DRS), Minnehaha (NP), and Turner (LRL) counties.
 Cassin's Kingbird - 16 July, Jackson Co., 2 immatures, and 17 July, Bennett Co., adult (BKH).
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 30 July, PLSRA (DRS).
 Brown Creeper - 9 June, Custer Co. (JSP). 23 June, Harding Co., adult carrying food (RAP, JLP).
 Sedge Wren - 20 June, Walworth Co., Spring Lake, first nesting activity observed in state (JDW, MZ). Also reported from Brule, Hand and Roberts (JLB), Day (DRS), Jerauld (DB) (JLB), Minnehaha (NRW) (JL), and Turner (JL) counties.
 American Dipper - Reported from Spearfish Canyon (KJK) (EEM) (JSP). 12 Nests located in Spearfish Canyon (DB).
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 17 July, NHSP (JSP).
 Eastern Bluebird - 24 successful broods Marshall Co. (CC). 18 successful broods Day Co. (DRS).
 Townsend's Solitaire - 11 July, Meade Co., adult defending nest (EEM).
 Swanson's Thrush - 2 June, Brown Co., 6 (JCS). 11 June, Edmunds Co., very late (MZ). 10 July, Lawrence Co., adult carrying food (JLB).
 Wood Thrush - 1 June, Marshall Co., singing (PFS).
 Gray Catbird - Reported nesting in Brown (JCS), and Roberts (BKH) counties.
 Northern Mockingbird - 2 June, McPherson Co. (JSP). 4 June, Faulk Co. (JCS). 14 July, Meade Co. (EEM). 3 July, Meade Co. (BKH, EEM). 8, 16 July, Custer Co. (NRW).
 Brown Thrasher - 21 June, PLSRA, adult on nest (DRS).
 Sprague's Pipit - 22 July, Dewey Co. (BKH).
 Loggerhead Shrike - 5 June, Turner Co. (JL). Only report!
 Bell's Vireo - 19 June, Corson Co., male singing (DS & LS)
 Solitary Vireo - 22 July, Pennington Co., male singing (NRW).
 Yellow-throated Vireo - 17 July, NHSP (JSP). All period Clay Co. (DS, KD, EL).
 Golden-winged Warbler - 19 June, Lawrence Co., pair, latest ever (JSP).
 Tennessee Warbler - 2 June, Deuel Co. (BKH). 6 June, Brown Co., 2 (JCS). 16, 31 July, Brown Co., 2 banded (DAT).
 Nashville Warbler - 30 July, Clay Co., earliest ever (DS).
 Northern Parula - 1 July, Buffalo Co. (JLB).
 Yellow Warbler - Reported nesting in Day (DRS), and Turner (JL) counties.
 Chestnut-sided Warbler - 2 June, SHSP, late (PFS). 8 June, Edmunds Co., very late (MZ). 9 July, Custer Co. (JLB).
 Palm Warbler - 2 June, McPherson Co., latest ever (JSP).
 Blackpoll Warbler - 2 June, Brown Co., banded (DAT).
 Cerulean Warbler - 5,6 June, Roberts Co., Sodak Park, male singing (BKH, MP).

Black-and-White Warbler - 2 June, Marshall Co., singing (PFS). 2 June, Deuel Co. (BKH). 19 June, Meade Co. (JSP). American Redstart - 9 June, Fall River Co. (JSP). All period Clay and Union counties (DS, KD, EL).

Ovenbird - 20 June, Harding Co., Slim Buttes, singing (DS, LS). 15 July, Union Co., and 28 July, Clay Co. (KD, EL).

Connecticut Warbler - 5 June, Turner Co., female (JL).

MacGillivray's Warbler - 14 June, Lawrence Co. (EEM). 2 July, Lawrence Co. (BKH).

Common Yellowthroat - Reported nesting in Day (DRS), and Turner (JL) counties.

Yellow-breasted Chat - 19 July, Meade Co. (EEM).

Scarlet Tanager - 22 June, Yankton Co., male singing (BKH).

Western Tanager - 20 June, Harding Co., Slim Buttes, female on nest (DS & LS).

Blue Grosbeak - 22 June, Clay Co. (BKH).

Indigo Bunting - Reported from Day (DRS) and Pennington (MMM) counties.

Dickcissel - Reported from Deuel and Lawrence (BKH), Meade (NRW), and Turner (LRL) counties.

Chipping Sparrow - Reported nesting in Day (DRS), and Turner (LRL) counties.

Clay-colored Sparrow - Nested in Day Co. (DRS).

Brewer's Sparrow - 2 July, Harding Co. (BKH).

Lark Sparrow - 22 June, Yankton Co. (BKH).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - 20 June, Walworth Co., Spring Lake, two calling, also observed 3 July (JDW, MZ).

Song Sparrow - 5, 20 June, Turner Co., 3 nests w/eggs (JL).

Swamp Sparrow - 5, 20 June, Turner Co., 2 nests (JL). 11 July, Walworth Co., Spring Lake, young and adults photographed in nest (JDW, MZ). Also reported from Jerauld and Sully (DB) counties.

Slate-colored Junco - 20 June, Walworth Co., latest ever (JCS).

McCown's Longspur - 1 July, Harding Co. (BKH).

Bobolink - Reported from Day (DRS), Lawrence (BKH), Lyman (NRW), Minnehaha (JL) (NRW), Pennington (BKH), and Turner (LRL) counties.

Eastern Meadowlark - 17 July, LNWR (BKH).

Brewer's Blackbird - 8 July, Custer Co., nest w/2 eggs & 2 young (JLB, NRW). 11 July, Lawrence Co., adult carrying food (JLB).

Orchard Oriole - 10 July, PLSRA, nest w/young (DRS).

Bullock's Oriole - 12 July, Pennington Co., adult male feeding fledged young (NRW).

Cassin's Finch - 17 July, Pennington Co. (BKH).

House Finch - Reported nesting in Brown (JCS), and Buffalo (JLB) counties. Observed in Day Co. (DRS).

Red Crossbill - 10 June, PLSRA, adults w/3 fledged young (DRS).

Pine Siskin - Only report from Brown Co. (JCS).

American Goldfinch - Reported nesting in Day (DRS), and Turner (LRL) counties.

Evening Grosbeak - 19 June, Lawrence Co. (JSP). 2 July, Meade Co. (BKH, EEM).

Observations requiring approval by Rare Birds Records Committee:

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - 29 June, Jerauld Co. (JLB).

Common Moorhen - 22 June, Brown Co., one adult, and 12, 29 July, Brown Co., 3 downy young (JCS).

White-winged Dove - 6,7 June, Edmunds Co., photographed (MZ, JDW).

Correction to 1993 Spring Season SDBN 45(3):52 Entry should Read:
Black Tern - 31 May, Marshall Co., nesting (PFS).

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