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Photo: Willis Hall

Great Horned Owls

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S.D.O.U. Autumn Meeting September 28, 29, and 30, 1979

L.M. Baylor

SDOU members finally enjoyed favorable weather for SDOU's 1979 autumn meeting - a welcomed change after the blizzard conditions for the previous two autumn meetings. Perhaps the late-September date brought this benefit.

Members gathered Friday evening, September 28, at the Gilbert Science Center, Augustana College, Sioux Falls. After the usual fellowship, host Gil Blankespoor pleased the group with a showing of the Department of Interior's film "A Great White Bird," an account of the recovery efforts for the Whooping Crane through 1976.

Despite the short time to prepare for this year's meeting, Dr. Blankespoor attracted a good group of papers from private and school-related investigators. The paper session on Saturday included the following presentations: (1) "Gray Partridge Nesting in Brookings County," by Jerry Hupp and Loren Smith, South Dakota State University, Brookings; (2) "The Red-winged Blackbird as a Host for the Brown-headed Cowbird, with Notes on Three Other Host Species," by Gil Blankespoor, Augustana College, Sioux Falls; (3) "Ecological Partitioning by Ecuadorian Antbirds," by Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen; (4) "Thoreau: Beholder of Birds," by Joseph L. Basile, University of South Dakota, Vermillion; (5) "An Episode in the History of South Dakota Ornithology - Elliott Coues," by Byron Harrell, University of South Dakota, Vermillion; (6) "A Preliminary Analysis of the Distribution of Birds that Occur in South Dakota," by Byron Harrell, University of South Dakota, Vermillion; (7) "The Endangered Species Act at Work with the Black Hills Uranium Activity," by L.M. Baylor, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City; (8) "A Baseline Study of a Proposed Bentonite Strip-Mining Area in Southeastern Montana and Its Relationship to Local Birds," by Thomas Hays, U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Rapid City; (9) "Is the Dickcissel Doomed?" by Nathaniel R. Whitney, Rapid City.

President Bill Lemons presided over his final business meeting and Board of Directors meeting, and SDOU members extend their thanks for his two years of service as SDOU's president. Nelda Holden, treasurer, brought a favorable report indicating the financial stability of SDOU and a slight increase in membership. Especially rewarding was the news that sales of *The Birds of South Dakota* have been sufficient to meet its publication costs. The spring meeting will be in Roberts County, with headquarters at Sisseton, May 16, 17, 18, 1980, and the autumn meeting for 1980 will be at Brookings, with the specific date to be announced later.

Directors elected for the term expiring in 1982 are Gilbert Blankespoor, Robert Buckman, Esther Edie, Nelda Holden, and Galen Steffen. SDOU's newly elected officers are Robert Buckman, president; Everett Montgomery, vice president; L.M. Baylor, secretary; Nelda Holden, treasurer; Herman P. Chilson, librarian; and Dan A. Tallman, editor.

SDOU members express profound gratitude to June Harter for her six years of exceptional service as the editor of *Bird Notes*. As June passes the editorship on to Dan Tallman, she urges all members to continue their cooperation by providing Dan with material for publication in *Bird Notes*. Members also extend their thanks to Esther Edie for her service as secretary.

Preceding the Saturday evening banquet, Miss Jill Blankespoor favored the group with vocal selections from the musical *Annie*. The host chairman is especially fortunate in having such a talented daughter to enhance his program efforts, and banquet participants were doubly fortunate as Gil Blankespoor entranced them with his banquet program, a slide-illustrated presentation entitled "East Africa; Its People and Wildlife."

The 1979 autumn Meeting concluded on Sunday, September 30, with morning field trips near Sioux Falls and a species call-off after lunch at Augustana College's Morrison Commons Building.

Registrants at the Meeting

September 28-30, 1979

From Nebraska

Omaha - Emma and Clyde Johnson

Wisner - Willetta and John Lueshen

From South Dakota

Aberdeen - Jeanette and Everett Montgomery, Dan Tallman

Brookings - Arthur, David, and Nelda Holden; Patsy and Kenneth Husmann, Jerry Hupp

Burke - Galen Steffen
Clear Lake - Bruce Harris
Gayville - Richard Peterson
Madison - Robert Buckman
Meckling - Bill Lemons
Rapid City - Jocelyn Baker, Mary and Les Baylor, Nancy and Tom Hays,
Esther Serr, Mary and Nathaniel R. Whitney
Redfield - Mrs. H.B. Baird
Sioux Falls - Jan and Gil Blankespoor, Albert Krueger, Gladyce and
Charles Rogge, Lucile and Robert Trusler, Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Young
Vermillion - Joseph Basile, Joyce and Byron Harrell
Volga - Carol Oleson
Watertown - Jim Herrig
Yankton - Rosamond and Willis Hall



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The 1979 fall meeting of the SDOU at Augustana College was very successful, with a number of excellent papers. During the field trips on Sunday morning, participants recorded 71 species. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather, in contrast to the ice storms that accompanied our past two fall meetings.

I plan to use the president's page, in part, to discuss certain bird topics. Distinctive adaptations enable birds to survive in various habitats and climates. Birds have exploited flight to its fullest (although some species are flightless). Avian flight represents two important adaptations: low weight and high power or energy output.

Bird bones are thin and hollow for weight reduction. Trusslike supports, called struts, inside bird bones greatly increase strength with little extra weight. Birds have a number of fused bones that normally are separate in other vertebrates, particularly in the pelvic or hip girdle and in the skull. These fused bones also add strength without increasing weight. Strength is necessary because of the pressure of flight on the wing bones while legs and hips must be strong enough to absorb the shock of landing.

Another weight-reducing adaptation involves feathers. Feather adaptations serve a number of functions. One is the fanning of air for flight. Another is insulation against adverse weather. The feathers provide excellent insulation and facilitate flight with very little addition to a bird's weight.

Bird skin contains only one gland, the uropygial or oil gland, located at the base of the tail. This organ produces oil used in preening feathers but adds little weight.

Modern birds have no teeth or bony jaws. A bird uses its light but strong bill to manipulate the environment. With this adaptive structure, a bird builds nests and feeds young but never chews food.

Birds have a system of air sacs that branch throughout the body. These air spaces further reduce the overall weight of the bird.

The avian urinary system contains neither a bladder nor urethra. The kidney concentrates waste products in semi-solid uric acid. Unlike the urine of mammals, uric acid is not soluble in water. Consequently, birds avoid the additional weight of water to remove wastes produced by the kidneys.

Nearly all female birds have only the left ovary. Both the ovary and the two testes (in males) shrink during the nonbreeding season, further reducing body weight.

Birds utilize energy-rich foods to obtain more energy per unit of food. Such foods include fruit, seeds, insects, and other invertebrates - all rich in calories. The highly efficient avian digestive system uses a large part of the food, digesting it very rapidly so that the bird does not carry food in the digestive tract for a long time. Like most other bird adaptations, body weight is minimized yet energy for bird survival is maintained.

Robert Buckman, Madison

**Species list of the SDOU fall meeting on 28, 29, and 30 September 1979,
Sioux Falls, SD. All birds are reported from Minnehaha County.**

Pied-billed Grebe	Black-capped Chickadee
Double-crested Cormorant	White-breasted Nuthatch
Great Blue Heron	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Mallard	House Wren
Gadwall	Catbird
Pintail	Brown Thrasher
Blue-winged Teal	Robin
Redhead	Eastern Bluebird
Canvasback	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cooper's Hawk	Cedar Waxwing
Red-tailed Hawk	Starling
Swainson's Hawk	Orange-crowned Warbler
Marsh Hawk	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Kestrel	Palm Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	House Sparrow
Gray Partridge	Western Meadowlark
American Coot	Red-winged Blackbird
Semipalmated Plover	Common Grackle
Killdeer	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Snipe	American Goldfinch
Spotted Sandpiper	Rufous-sided Towhee
Solitary Sandpiper	Vesper Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	Dark-eyed Junco
Lesser Yellowlegs	Chipping Sparrow
Pectoral Sandpiper	Clay-colored Sparrow
Baird's Sandpiper	Field Sparrow
Least Sandpiper	Harris' Sparrow
Semipalmated Sandpiper	White-throated Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Lincoln's Sparrow
Rock Dove	Song Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	
Common Flicker	Robert Buckman, Madison
Red-headed Woodpecker	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	
Hairy Woodpecker	
Downy Woodpecker	
Eastern Phoebe	
Tree Swallow	
Barn Swallow	
Blue Jay	
Common Crow	

General Notes of Special Interest

UNUSUAL MIGRANTS AT ABERDEEN - Aberdeen's extreme northern location is ideal for recording late spring and early fall migrants in South Dakota. I obtained the following records during 1979. Whitney et al., "*The Birds of South Dakota*" (SDOU: 1978) served as my sole reference.

Late spring records. Swainson's Thrush: This thrush, its buffy eye ring clearly evident, was observed on 8 June in a woodlot about 3 miles northeast of the Aberdeen courthouse. This record is 4 days later than the previous late date from Brookings.

Red-eyed Vireo: On 8 June, this vireo was banded at my home (1506 SE Third Ave.). I have not seen it in the area since, therefore I assume the bird was a migrant, despite the late date.

MacGillivray's Warbler: On 7 June, a female MacGillivray's Warbler flew into a window at my home. The bird, prepared as a specimen, contained moderate fat and was not breeding. Two days short of being the state's latest spring record, this finding is a first from northeastern South Dakota. The nearest previous record is from the Brookings area.

Early fall records. Short-billed Dowitcher: Although outnumbered by Long-billed Dowitchers, this shorebird is a common migrant in the Aberdeen area. On 16 August, I picked up a dying Short-billed Dowitcher (presumably the victim of bird botulism) about 2 miles west of the Aberdeen courthouse. The bird is now a specimen at Northern State College. The species was observed at Sand Lake NWR 2 days earlier. The Short-billed Dowitcher is not difficult to identify in summer plumage: look for pale, tan-breasted (not darker, more reddish-brown) birds, then note spotted flanks - Long-billed Dowitcher flanks are definitely barred.

Mockingbird: On the morning of 26 September, a Mockingbird briefly visited the Mountain Ash in my back yard. The bird was also observed by my wife and mother-in-law, both of whom are familiar with the species elsewhere. This bird was probably a migrant since I have no spring or summer records from Aberdeen.

Tennessee Warbler: This bright greenish-backed but otherwise drab warbler was seen at my home on 19 August. I clearly noted its white undertail coverts, faint wingbars and yellowish-washed breast. The previous early record is from Hyde Co. on 23 August 1961.

Nashville Warbler: On 25 August, this yellowish warbler with no wingbars and with a white eye ring appeared in my back yard. This date

is the second earliest for South Dakota, the earliest record being from West River. A second individual, banded on 14 October, was retrapped on 21 October, the second to last recorded date for the state.

Blackburnian Warbler: On 17 August, I collected this warbler (Federal Permit PRT-7-1896-C-KC) at my home. Whitney et al., indicate that this bird is a possible migrant in the last half of August but cite fall records only from September and October. My wife observed a second individual at our home on 24 August.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: This species normally migrates in September. Whitney et al., give no early migration dates since this grosbeak breeds in most of eastern South Dakota; but it is not a breeder at Aberdeen, where I saw it on 19 August.

Evening Grosbeak: A solitary female Evening Grosbeak was seen twice (presumably the same individual) at my home on 10 and 14 October. The first date is four days earlier than the previous fall record for the state from Lawrence Co. -- **Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401.**

WHOOPING CRANES IN YANKTON COUNTY — At noon, on 15 April 1979, I observed 4 birds flapping, wheeling, and soaring high above open, wet fields in northern Yankton County. I studied them for about 3 minutes with 7x35 binoculars. The birds were light-colored with dark-tipped primaries. The long legs and necks appeared to extend equally in length from the bodies. The wing spreads of the birds were about twice the lengths of Red-tailed Hawks which were soaring at a lesser altitude. One photograph was taken by Willis Hall before the birds disappeared to the northwest. A search along the James River fields failed to produce a second sighting.

Size, shape, and relative color would seem to rule out Snow Geese, White Pelicans, and Sandhill Cranes, all of which I had recently observed. Although I have never seen this crane before, I believe the birds to have been Whooping Cranes. -- **Juli Wilcox, Yankton 57078.**

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER IN RAPID CITY — On the morning of 29 April 1979, I observed a single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at City Springs Park, Rapid City. For about 30 minutes, I took notes on the bird's field marks as I watched it with 7x35 binoculars and a 20x scope. The gnatcatcher gave its rather nasal call constantly as it twitched its tail nervously like a wren and kept continually on the move. It came within 3 meters of me when I "pished." Nat Whitney reported seeing this same species at the same locality on 30 October 1976. -- **Jocelyn L. Baker, Rapid City 57701**

CALIFORNIA GULLS NEAR ORDWAY MEMORIAL PRAIRIE — The status of the California Gull in South Dakota is uncertain (Whitney et al., *The Birds of South Dakota*, SDOU: 1978). Possibly the species regularly strays into the northern counties.

On 16 June 1979, I discovered a flock of 9 California Gulls at a state hunting area about a mile northwest of the Ordway Memorial Prairie headquarters (McPherson Co.). I saw no evidence of breeding. Two Franklin's Gulls sat nearby. My identification of the California Gulls was made at close range with 10x binoculars; the birds' red-spotted bills and yellow-green feet were carefully noted.

Dr. Dwayne Rehfeld of the Northern State College Chemistry Department visited this location a week earlier. Although not a birdwatcher, he stated no gulls of any type were present on the earlier date. On 30 June 1979, I saw 4 California Gulls at the lake. During my last visit to the area, on 21 August, no California Gull could be distinguished among thousands of Franklin's Gulls and several dozen Ring-bills. On no occasion was a California Gull seen elsewhere in the area. — **Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen 57401**

THE 1979 SPRING MIGRATION

In the northeast, waterfowl migration seemed to be about two weeks late. But there was a surprising number of early arrival dates among other groups (based on data in "Birds of South Dakota"). Early records were broken or tied for 20 species: Common Loon, Green Heron, Swainson Hawk, Sora, Piping Plover, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Whip-poor-will, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Red-breasted Grosbeak, and Fox Sparrow.

Some rare and interesting birds were recorded; these have been bold-faced in the following list. Unfortunately, several of these rare bird sightings were submitted with no information to indicate the accuracy of the observer, how close he was to the bird, how and for what time he saw it, or what his birding experience has been. Such data are imperative to convince others that the sighting is accurate; please send all information to us in the future. Quite likely our review committee will be unable to accept some of the sightings reported in this list.

When the waterfowl flight finally appeared, we had spectacular concentrations, especially of Snow Geese. The warbler migration, while good along the Missouri River, was rather slow in the east. — **Bruce Harris.**

Loons through Herons. — Common Loon: **earliest date on record**, 3 April Meade Co. (DLB); Enemy Swim Lake late May (KH). Pied-billed Grebe: 10 April Lake Campbell (NJH). Horned Grebe: 20 April, White Rock, Roberts Co. (NJH); 1 April, Hughes Co. (CB, MC). Western Grebe: 2 at Watertown 20 April (NJH). Green Heron: 30 April, **earliest on record**, Missouri River (KJH). Cattle Egret: 26 April, very early, Sand Lake (RLW); 18 May Kingsbury Co., birds in 3 areas around Whitewood Lake; 21 May Deuel Co. (BKH and WR). **Snowy Egret:** 12 April, early (2) Clay Co. (KJH); 24 May Pocasse NWR, Campbell Co. (RLH); 29 May Brown Co. (SJW); 18 May Kingsbury Co. (BKH, WR); more of these egrets were reported than usual. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** 2 May (RB, et al); 26 May Brown Co. (ECM) same bird? Great Blue Heron: 3 April Hughes Co. (CB, MC).

Waterfowl. — Whistling Swan: 13 March Yankton Co. (WH); more than usual in NE, with 13 flocks, 4 to 80 birds (BKH). Snow-Blue Goose: spectacular flights as a result of delayed migration; none in Deuel Co. until 1 April but, after that time, several flights of 10,000 birds; est. 100,000 Turner Co. 7 April (RS); peak of 210,000 Sand Lake (SJW); 25 March near Elkton (GF). Mallard: 8 April Brookings Co. (NJH). **Black Duck**: 7 April Sand Lake (SJW). Cinnamon Teal: 24 April Custer Co. (EMS); 30 April Hyde Co. (RS); 25 April Dewey Co. (DLB); 6 May Seavey's Pond, 11 May (2) Skelly's Pond (JLB); 13 May Mellette Co. (WH). Pintail: 8 April (2) Brookings Co. (NJH). Gadwall: 8 April (5) Brookings Co. (NJH). American Wigeon: 10 April (1) Brookings Co. (NJH). Shoveler: 8 April (1) Brookings Co. (NJH). Blue-winged Teal: 16 April (2) Brookings Co. (NJH). Ring-necked Duck: 27 February (early or wintering?) Pierre (CB, MC); 10 April Brookings Co. (NJH); 24 May **Douglas Co.** (WH); 30 May **Dewey Co.** (DLB); 20 May **Bon Homme Co.** (RS) all birds S or W of normal range for this time of year; nesting? Wood Duck: 15 April (2) Moody Co. (LW). Redhead: 8 April (4) Brookings Co. (NJH). Canvasback: 6 April (6) Brookings Co. (NJH). Lesser Scaup: 8 April (50) Brookings Co. (NJH); 19 May, late migrants in 3 areas of Ch. Mix Co., (BKH, et al). Common Goldeneye: 8 April (8) Brookings Co. (NJH); 4 April (40) Roberts Co. (SJW); 22 April Hughes Co. (RS) (late migrant); 16 April (40) Deuel Co. and 27 April (5) Deuel Co., (very late). Bufflehead: 10 April (1) Brookings Co. (NJH); 6 May Meade Co. (JLB); **13 May** Deuel Co. (13 in active courtship display) (BKH) (very late). Ruddy Duck: 27 April (8) Roberts Co. (NJH); 30 May (28) Dewey Co. (DLB) late migrant in NW, with "buffy" albino in Deuel Co. 3 May; concentrations of over 100. Common Merganser: 8 April (10) Brookings Co. (NJH); 16 April (120) Yankton Co. (WH), but none in NE until **12 April** (very late) then in large concentrations (350, Roberts Co.) and lingering late - 3 groups at Bullhead Lake and 5 pair at Long Tree, Deuel Co. (BKH); also over 100 during first week in April in Moody and Penn. Co. (JLB) and Aurora and McCook Co. (NRW). Red-breasted Merganser: several groups (ca. 8) Yankton Co. (WH); also reports from Hughes and Deuel Co. (no dates). Hooded Merganser: 8 April (2) Brookings Co. (NJH).

Raptors. — Turkey Vulture: more than usual in NE; 17 April (2) Codington Co.; 18 April Deuel Co. (2, possible duplicate?) (BKH); 31 May Deuel Co. (nesting?) (BKH, RS); also 3 from Grant Co. 27 April (AH, GF&P). Goshawk: 26 March Custer Co. (RAP); 3 April Meade Co. (DLB); 3 April Pierre (CB, MC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 14 April Brookings Co. (NJH); 5 obs. in NE, including late date of 13 May Roberts Co. (BKH); reported also from Hutchinson, Pennington, Gregory, Yankton (3 obs.) and Brookings Co. Cooper's Hawk: reports from Hutchinson, Gregory, Hughes Co. (**24 May**) (DB), Deuel Co. on 12 May and 21 May (BKH); late dates could be nesting birds. Marsh Hawk: 25 March (2) near Elkton (GF); 27 March (2) McCook Co. (NJH). Red-tailed Hawk: 27 March (2) McCook Co. (NJH). Broad-winged Hawk: **19 April** Waubay NWR (RRJ); 19 April Sand Lake NWR (RE) (very early). Swainson's Hawk: **3 April** Hughes Co. (CB, MC) - **earliest date on record**; 9 April (very early) Badlands (NRW); concentrations of 128 on 24 April Custer Co. (BNM) (unusual for spring migration). American Roughleg: 17 obs. in NE including late date of **21 April** (2 birds in 2 areas) (BKH); also 13 April Hutchinson Co. (RS). Golden Eagle: late date of **27 April** (imm.) Deuel Co. (MH); also 28 March Waubay NWR (LLW, HOS); 6 April Brown Co. (BM, TK). Bald Eagle: late date **21 May** Custer Co. (JAH, RH) (nesting?). Osprey: more than usual, 13 records from Union, Roberts, Pennington, Yankton, Gregory, Brown, Clay, Grant Co. **29 May** Yankton Co. (WH) (late date). American Kestrel: 27 March (2) McCook Co. (NJH). Merlin: 6 April Butte Co. (RMH); **13 May** Clay Co. (RAP).

Galliformes and Gruiformes. — Sandhill Crane: 15 April Day Co. (KH); 1 April Deuel Co. (HL). Sora: 11 May (KH); 13 May Brookings Co. (NJH); **22 April** Hutchinson Co. **earliest on record** (RS). American Coot: first recorded in NE on 8 April (late migration); 8 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Sage Grouse: 1 May Butte Co. (15) (RS) on booming ground. Prairie Chicken: 16 April Gregory Co. (104) (DL) on booming ground counts.

Shorebirds. — Piping Plover: 14 April Yankton Co. (JEW) earliest on record; 15 April Yankton Co. (WH); Union Co. (RAP). Killdeer: 20 March Brookings Co. (NJH). Golden Plover: 4 obs. in NE, 1 May — 23 May (BKH). Woodcock: early Deuel Co. 12 April (MD); performed aerial display every night from 8:55 until 9:30 from 3 May through 20 May Brookings Co. (NJH et al.) up to 4 males heard. Common Snipe: 27 April (6) Roberts Co. (NJH, et al.) 24 May, adult with yg. (KH) near Watertown. Long-billed Curlew: 25 May Douglas Co. (WH) (rarely seen east river); 4 April Jackson Co. (NRW) (early date); 29 May (1) near Badlands (DH). Ruddy Turnstone: 23 May Day Co. (200) (BKH) - 100 in same area 1 June (BKH, RS). Upland Sandpiper: 4 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Spotted Sandpiper: 17 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Solitary Sandpiper: 13 May Brookings Co. (NJH); more than usual from Pennington, Meade, Yankton, Gregory, Deuel, Clay and Brookings Co. (BKH). Willet: 24 May Fall River Co. (CPN). Pectoral Sandpiper: 13 May (10) Brookings Co. (NJH); 29 April (1) Brookings Co. (NJH). White-rumped Sandpiper: records from Kay, Deuel and Charles Mix Co. (BKH). Baird's Sandpiper: 27 March (2) McCook Co. (NJH). Dunlin: 27 May (30) E Astoria (GF). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 18 April Yankton Co. (WH) earliest on record. Long-billed Dowitcher: 7 May (8) Brookings Co. (NJH); (unusual concentrations for spring migration) (28) on 7 May and (60) on 14 May Deuel Co. (BKH). Stilt Sandpiper: 26 May Pennington Co. (JLB). Marbled Godwit: 8 April (2) Yankton Co. (WH) earliest on record. Hudsonian Godwit: (more than usual); 5 obs. Deuel Co., 2-15 birds, up to 6 June when a cripple was seen with healthy bird (mate?) (BKH); records also from Clay Co. with 9 obs., up to 16 in flocks (KJH). Sanderling: 16 April Deuel Co. (BKH, KH) earliest on record; 23 May Day Co. (BKH). American Avocet: 14 April Bon Homme Co. (JLB) (early). Wilson's Phalarope: 8 May Brookings Co. (AH). Northern Phalarope: 15 May (3) Deuel Co. (BKH).

Gulls and Terns. — California Gull: 24 May Stanley Co. (RS). Franklin's Gull: 25 March Hughes Co. (RS); 31 March Brookings Co. (CAT). Bonaparte's Gull: 13 April (early) Yankton Co., with peak of 160 (WH); 5 obs. from Deuel Co. with groups of 35-50 at Lake Alice (BKH); 30 May Dewey Co. (DLB); 30% in Deuel Co. were in winter plumage on 25 April; 9 May Charles Mix Co. Black Tern: 14 May Brookings Co. (NJH).

Doves through Woodpeckers. — Band-tailed Pigeon: Lawrence Co., no date but convincing details from RH (third record for state if accepted). Mourning Dove: 2 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Great Horned Owl: young hatched first week of April and off nest 17 May Moody Co. (LW). Snowy Owl: (late migrants) (3 birds in 3 areas) Deuel Co. 25 April (DK). Burrowing Owl: 19 April Stanley Co. (RS) 15 birds in 1 prairie dog town. Long-eared Owl: 11 May Brookings Co. (NJH); 5 April Moody Co. (LW); 8 April Brookings Co. (NJH); 17 March Brookings (CAT). Whip-poor-will: 22 April, earliest on record, Union Co. (RAP), where many were calling each night until 22 May; also 3 records Yankton Co. (JEW). Nighthawk: 15 May Brookings (CAT). Chimney Swift: 24 April Stanley Co. (RLH) (early); 21 April Hutchinson Co. (RS) earliest ever; 11 May Brookings Co. (KH). Belted Kingfisher: 8 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 May Brookings (CAT). Red-headed Woodpecker: 12 May Brookings (NJH). Lewis Woodpecker: reports from Meade and Lawrence Co. (BKH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 24 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 25 April SW Custer (JAH, RH).

Flycatchers through Wrens. — Eastern Kingbird: 15 May Brookings Co. (LW). Western Kingbird: 26 April Stanley Co. (RLH) (early); 8 May Pierre (CB, MC); 15 May Brookings (NJH). Eastern Phoebe: 13 April Brookings (NJH). Say's Phoebe: 8 April Pennington Co. (EMS) (early); 29 April Hutchinson Co. (RS). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 24 May Brookings Co. (banded) (GCR). Least Flycatcher: 24 May Pennington Co. (JLB) calling male. Eastern Wood Pewee: 19 May (CAT). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 27 May Deuel Co. (BKH). Tree Swallow: 15

April Day Co. (KH) earliest on record; 15 April Codington Co. (RRJ); 17 April Deuel Co. (BKH). Violet-green Swallow: 18 April Rapid City (JLB) (very early); 28 April Ziebach Co. (DLB). Rough-winged Swallow: 27 April Roberts Co. (25) (NJH). Barn Swallow: 28 April Brookings Co. (NJH); 15 April Stanley Co. (JLB) earliest on record; 21 April Lyman Co. (RS). Purple Martin: 17 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Black-billed Magpie: 4 obs. Yankton and Bon Homme Co. (WH). **Pygmy Nuthatch: 17 March and 15 May Rapid City (NRW). House Wren: 30 April Brookings Co. (CAT); 5 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Winter Wren: 13 May Brookings Co.; 18 May Sanborn Co. (BKH) (very late migrant).**

Mimids through Shrikes. — Mockingbird: 23 May Brookings Co. (BCR) (banded); 26 May Waiworth Co. (AL, MA). Gray Catbird: **1 May Yankton Co. (JEW) earliest on record; 21 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Brown Thrasher: 20 April Clay Co. (KJH) (very early or wintering bird); 23 April Brookings Co. (CAT); 6 May Brookings Co. (NJH) (banded). Hermit Thrush: 9 April - Day Co. (GM) earliest date on record; 18 April (EE); 26 April Brookings (CAT). Swainson's Thrush: 15 April Brookings (CAT). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 9 May Brookings (CAT); 14 May Brookings (NJH). Veery: 7 May Clay and Union Co. (RAP) earliest date on record; 8 May Clay Co. (KJH); 23 May Brookings (CAT). Eastern Bluebird: 7 April Brookings Co. (AH); 8 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Mountain Bluebird: 20 March Sand Lake (TK); reported as numerous in Yankton and Bon Homme Co. on 24 March (JEW); other records from NE (BKH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 28 April Rapid City (JLB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 16 April (KH), Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 8 March Brookings Co. (CAT). Bohemian Waxwing: good numbers in Rapid City early March (groups of up to 300) (NRW, AM); 15 March (120) (DLB); 8 March Brookings Co. (CAT). Cedar Waxwing: 18 March Brookings Co. (NJH). Loggerhead Shrike: 8 April Bon Homme Co. (WH); 8 April Hutchinson Co. (RS); 23 April Brown Co. (TK, SJW); 21 April Deuel Co. (BKH).**

Vireos and Warblers. — Yellow-throated Vireo: 25 May Roberts Co. (2) (BKH). Solitary Vireo: **12 May Lincoln Co. (2) (RS); 18 May Brookings Co. (CAT). Red-eyed Vireo: 1 May Butte Co., earliest on record (IGW); 27 May Brookings (CAT). Philadelphia Vireo: 8 May Clay Co. (RAP) earliest date on record; 19 May Charles Mix Co. (RS); 19 May Brookings Co. (CAT); 22 May Brookings Co. (GCR); 27 May Deuel Co. (BKH); (more records than usual). Warbling Vireo: 16 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Black-and-White Warbler: 1 May Brookings Co. (GF); 4 May Brookings Co. (NJH). **Blue-winged Warbler: 7 May Hyde Co. (JH) earliest on record. Tennessee Warbler: 22 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Orange-crowned Warbler: 7 May and 23 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Nashville Warbler: 15 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Parula Warbler: 3 May Gregory Co. (GLS). Yellow Warbler: 13 May (NJH); 12 May (CAT) (no location). Magnolia Warbler: 7 May Brookings Co. (CAT). Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle): 2 April Sand Lake (TK) earliest on record; 22 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Chestnut-sided Warbler: 27 May Deuel Co. (BKH); 22 May Brookings Co. (GF). Black-throated Green Warbler: records from Brookings and Sand Lake (BKH). **Cerulean Warbler: 10 May Brookings Co. (GF) earliest on record; 13 May Brookings Co. (GF). Blackburnian Warbler: 25 May Deuel Co. (BKH); 31 May Grant Co. (BKH, RS); 26 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Blackpoll: 14 May Brookings Co. (NJH); 5 May Dewey Co. (RLH) (early). Ovenbird: 6 May and 12 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Northern Waterthrush: 6 May Brookings Co. (NJH, CAT). Connecticut Warbler: 25 May Brookings Co. (GCR). Mourning Warbler: Brookings Co. (JH) (banded). Common Yellowthroat: 17 May Brookings Co. (CAT). Hooded Warbler: 29 April Brown Co. (DD, et al.) earliest date on record but no details, also reported Brown Co. 11 May. American Redstart: Brookings Co. 16 May (GF).******

Blackbirds and Tanagers. — Bobolink: 12 May (no location) (NJH); 7 May Roberts Co. (R. Schmidt) (early). Common Grackle: 7 March Brookings Co. (CAT). Scarlet Tanager: 31 May Grant Co. (BKH, RS).
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Grosbeaks through Buntings. — Cardinal: 7 March through 27 May Brookings Co. (CAT); 4 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: **12 May** Lincoln Co. (RS) **earliest on record**. Indigo Bunting: 6 May Union Co. (RAP) (early). Evening Grosbeak: 7 and 11 April Brookings Co. (CAT). Purple Finch: 1 March Brookings Co. (CAT); 26 April Brookings Co. (NJH). Pine Siskin: good numbers in Black Hills; (**920 daily** at Custer feeder?) (JAH, RH); 6, 12 and 15 May Brookings Co. (NJH). American Goldfinch: 1 and 26 March Brookings Co. (CAT); (43 banded) 6-13 May Brookings Co. (NJH). Rufous-sided Towhee: **13 May** Brookings Co. (NJH). Savannah Sparrow: 28 April (2) Brookings Co. (NJH). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 8 May Waubay NWR (LLW). Vesper Sparrow: 17 April (no location) (NJH). Lark Sparrow: 7 May (1) Brookings Co. (CAT). **Gray-headed Junco**: 7 May Hyde Co. (JHH) (details promised); also Pennington Co. (details needed). Chipping Sparrow: 17 April Brookings Co. (NJH) (banded). Clay-colored Sparrow: 27 April Brookings Co. (NJH) (banded). White-crowned Sparrow: 3 May Brookings Co. (CAT); 9 May Moody Co. (Wells). Fox Sparrow: **15 March** Brookings Co. (CAT) **earliest on record**; 18 March Deuel Co. (BKH); 13 April Brookings Co. (CAT). Lincoln's Sparrow: 19 April (no location) (CAT). Song Sparrow; 10 April Brookings (NJH). McCown Longspur: 25 April Dewey Co. (7) (DLB). Lapland Longspur: 19 March, many late migrants Clear Lake to Pierre; also 21 March Deuel Co. (BKH). Snow Bunting: 10 March Brookings Co. (DJH).

Contributors:

DLB Dan Bjerke; JLB Jocie Baker; JC James Cole; GF Gladyce Froiland; WI Wynn Eakins; AGH Alfred Hinds, BKH Bruce Harris; KH Ken Husmann; KJH Karolyn Hoover; NJH Nelda Holden; WH Willis Hall; CJJ Carol Johnson; DL Dave Linehan; BM Berle Meyers; EEM Ernest Miller; ECM Everett Montgomery; RDM Mike Michael; BMN Barney Nordstrom; RAP Richard Peterson; GLS Gale Steffens; EMS Esther Serr; RLS Ron Spomer; CAT Charles A. Taylor; WCT Walt Thietje; SV Spencer Vaa; GRW Garner Waddel; IGW Irma Weyler; NRW Nat R. Whitney; LAW Leota Williams; LIW Lois I. Wells.

(Editor's Note: compiling this season's report proved to be most difficult for a novice like myself. Reporters for "Birds of the Season" would be a tremendous help if they report in the future 1) birds in strict SDOU checklist order (future SDOU lists will help); and 2) please send in no abbreviated names: many of you may find your names left off the contributors' column in this issue. Please do not be offended - let me know who you are.)

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW EDITOR

Who I am. Dan Tallman is my name. I have earned a doctorate in zoology and physiology from Louisiana State University. My area of concentration was South American bird ecology and systematics. Last fall I was hired by Northern State College in Aberdeen to teach most of their natural history oriented courses.

A New Look to Bird Notes. I took on being your editor so that I could meet all of you and learn what you know about South Dakota birds. One thing new editors always do is change the format of their journals. Like dogs near a lamp post, it's their way of marking their territory. Surely not everyone will be equally happy with any changes that I will make; let me hear from you.

Catching up. A number of factors have conspired to make recent issues of *Bird Notes* exceedingly tardy in publication. We can only catch up to a reasonable schedule if our membership goes out of its way to submit material for our journal. As soon as I fill an issue, I will publish it.

What kind of material do we need? All kinds! Don't be shy! South Dakota Bird Notes is about birds of this state for the birders of the area. Don't worry if you think you don't write well enough: even professionals require aid with their prose. What we want to do is communicate the excitement of birds in South Dakota. We don't even have to be "scientific." If your are dubious as to the value of your contributions; SEND THEM IN and let's talk about it!

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**PLAN TO ATTEND
SDOU SPRING MEETING
MAY 16-18, 1980
at SISSETON**