

FIRST DOCUMENTED RECORD OF THE MOOSE IN SOUTH DAKOTA — In their recent checklist of mammals in South Dakota, Choate and Jones (Prairie Naturalist 10:65-77, 1981) listed the moose (*Alces alces*) as hypothetically occurring in the state. One of us (Tallman) often has heard rumors of moose in northeastern South Dakota and, upon consultation with Edens, discovered in the files of Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge the following data, which constitute the first documented record of this species in the state.

On 29 June 1980, two moose, an adult cow and a young bull, emerged from a marsh (T. 126N, R. 62W, sec. 3) in Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown Co., South Dakota. Earlier that month, reports of moose had been received from just east of the refuge and from Marshall Co. On the evening of 30 June, the moose were in an oat field about one mile southwest of where they were seen on the previous day. Photographs taken by Tim Kessler, Assistant Refuge Manager, are on file both at the refuge and at Northern State College. Sporadic sightings were made during the first three weeks of July, the last being on 20 July about seven miles north and two miles east of where they were seen on 29 June. On 3 August 1980, we received a report of moose seen near Ludden, North Dakota, about six miles north of the South Dakota border along the James River.

We find it unsurprising that the James River, along which Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge lies, might act as a corridor for moose wandering southward from northern Minnesota or Canada. A check of the Aberdeen Zoo confirmed that moose have not been held there and hence these moose were not local escapes. — *Dan A. Tallman, Northern State College, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 and Robert Edens, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Columbia, South Dakota 57433.*