

Notes

SUMMER RECORD OF THE SNOWY OWL IN NORTH DAKOTA. Arnold Kadrmas and I observed a snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) resting in a fallow field 6 miles west of Bottineau, Bottineau County, North Dakota on July 23, 1968. Snowy owls are rarely seen south of the Canadian border in mid-summer. Bent (1938, Bull. 170, U. S. Nat. Mus.) records September 18 (Stamford, Conn.) as the earliest fall sighting and June 3 (1890, Litchfield, Minn.) as the latest spring record. A snowy owl was seen near Brunswick, Maine, on July 17, 1961 (Aud. Field Notes 15:452). —Donald R. Johnson, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow 83843.



LONG-BILLED CURLEWS IN LAMOURE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA. North Dakota is host each spring to millions of shorebirds which pass through the state on their northward migration. Some species, including the long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*), stop to nest in the state. Long-billed curlews were found throughout North Dakota prior to homesteading according to Bent (1929, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 146, p. 100). A rapid population decline followed settlement of the region and by 1923, Wood (*Misc. Publ., Univ. Mich. Zool.*, No. 10, p. 33) considered the species to be rare throughout the state. By that date, the species was confined primarily to the area southwest of the Missouri River.

Two observations in the late fifties indicate that the species still is seen occasionally in southeastern North Dakota. On April 17, 1957, a pair was observed on a small knoll in a 160 acre pasture adjoining LaMoure County Hwy. 62, one mile north of the LaMoure-Dickey County line. This site is one-half mile east of Cottonwood Lake. During the forenoon of May 9, 1959, a second pair was sighted feeding in a bluegrass hayfield on the floodplain of the James River near LaMoure. These birds were approximately 100 yards north of State Hwy. 13 and about one mile west of LaMoure's city limits. No evidence of nesting was observed following either of these sightings. The flood plain area was revisited in April and May of each year from 1960 to 1966 but no additional curlews were seen.

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