

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE

## IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

VOL. IV

SEPTEMBER, 1934

NO. 3



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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
WINTHROP, IOWA



### THE STARLING IN A SINGING ATTITUDE

The Starling has spread rapidly over nearly the whole of Iowa during the last four years. It will soon become an abundant resident over the entire state, nesting in all available locations.

This plate is from a drawing by George Misch Sutton and is reproduced through the courtesy of 'Bird-Lore,' in which it was published in 1927.

## ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF THE STARLING IN IOWA

By PHILIP A. DU MONT

An article of mine delineating the range of the Starling in Iowa as determined in September, 1933, was contained in 'Iowa Bird Life,' December, 1933. At that time there were records of occurrence in 39 of the 99 counties.

Within the past eleven months (to August, 1934) the writer has learned of unpublished records of the Starling in Allamakee, Winneshiek, Webster, Grundy, Marshall, Jasper, Madison, Appanoose, Wayne, Page, and Fremont Counties, all made prior to September, 1933. These are enumerated below.

In addition, observations of the Starling by various people, believed to be the first occurrences in each county, have been made in Des Moines, Howard, Mitchell, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Butler, Hardin, Hamilton, Wright, Hancock, Winnebago, Kossuth, Humboldt, Calhoun, Pocahontas, Palo Alto, Emmet, Dickinson, Clay, Cherokee, Sioux, Plymouth, Sac, Carroll, Crawford, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, Adair, Pottawattamie, Adams, Montgomery, Ringgold, Taylor, Warren, Monroe, Lucas, Wapello, and Davis Counties. None of these observations has been published elsewhere save for the possibility of a few having been used in local newspapers.

Oscar P. Allert reported a flock of 11 birds seen at Waukon Junction, ALLAMAKEE COUNTY, May 16, 1933.

A single bird was seen by Mr. Allert at Canoe, WINNESHIEK COUNTY, November 11, 1931. The writer noted Starlings in a number of localities in this county during May, 1934.

In a letter from M. L. Jones of Pomeroy, June 24, 1934, a correction was made in the report of Starlings in Calhoun County as published by Mr. Jones in 'Iowa Bird Life' for June, 1933. The observation of four birds on March 4, 1933, was made along Lizzard Creek near Clare, WEBSTER COUNTY.

In a letter from Mrs. Helen G. King of Grundy Center, December 11, 1933, she reported that early in the spring of 1933 a pair of Starlings appeared at Grundy Center, GRUNDY COUNTY, and stayed to nest.

Two specimens, a male and a female, in the study collection of the Department of Zoology, Iowa State College, were killed by Harlow B. Mills at LeGrand, MARSHALL COUNTY, December 25, 1931. In January, 1934, Mr. Mills wrote that Starlings nested in several places around LeGrand the previous summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Brunner of Des Moines reported a flock of 12 Starlings seen June 12, 1933, east of Newton in JASPER COUNTY. Three birds were seen by the writer in the same county, two miles east of Kellogg, April 30, 1934.

The first record for MADISON COUNTY was of a bird killed by a farmer near Macksburg, during the spring of 1932. This record was published in the 'Winterset News.' An effort is being made to learn the name of the observer and the exact date.

A flock of 16 Starlings was seen by Miss Faye Blakey in the northwest part of APPANOOSE COUNTY, during August, 1933. Two were noted by the writer one mile west of Centerville, May 12, 1934.

Miss Faye Blakey reported seeing a flock of 17 birds during June, 1932, northeast of Corydon, Union Township, WAYNE COUNTY. Since then they have been noted in several localities, nesting both last year and this.

Charles E. Danker of Shenandoah stated that several Starlings were seen one and one-half miles northeast of Shenandoah, PAGE COUNTY,

during the winter of 1932-'33. Harlow B. Mills found a pair one mile north of Clarinda, April 11 and 12, 1934. The writer noted a flock of 70 birds two miles southeast of Shenandoah, June 30, 1934.

Mr. Danker reported Starlings present on a farm two miles west of Shenandoah, FREMONT COUNTY, during the winter of 1932-'33. Harlow B. Mills saw three birds in Fisher Township on May 3, 1934.

On May 9, 1934, Harold M. Holland of Galesburg, Illinois, wrote that he had seen two Starlings on September 15, 1933, along the bluff near Ray's Lake, 15 miles north of Burlington, DES MOINES COUNTY. He saw seven or eight south of Kingston on March 21, 1934. Allen Green reported a flock of about 50 at the Allen Green Refuge early in the spring of 1934. The writer observed Starlings in a number of localities in Des Moines County on April 27 and 28, and on May 10, 1934.

A flock of nine birds was noted by Oscar P. Allert at Maple Leaf, HOWARD COUNTY, December 14, 1933. A single bird was seen by the writer along the Winneshiek-Howard County line near Cresco on May 22, 1934. Also one was seen two miles east of Cresco, and one a mile west on the same date.

The writer noted four birds at Little Cedar, MITCHELL COUNTY, May 22, 1934. Two flocks (8 and 10 birds) were seen by I. T. Bode and the writer north of Osage, August 8, 1934.

A mated pair of Starlings was seen by the writer at Kennett, WORTH COUNTY, April 20, 1934.

In CERRO GORDO COUNTY the writer noted a flock of eight birds four miles south of Mason City, April 19, 1934. Even while feeding with a large flock of blackbirds these Starlings foraged in pairs. Two birds were observed by the writer eight miles south of Mason City, April 21, 1934, and one was seen five miles east of Rockwell on the same date. Edward S. Gage, vice-president of the Cerro Gordo chapter, Izaak Walton League, informed the writer that Starlings were reported in Mason City during 1933.

On April 19, 1934, the writer observed Starlings at the following places in FRANKLIN COUNTY: six miles south of Hampton, seven; five miles south of Hampton, a mated pair; three miles south of Hampton, another mated pair. On May 19, 1934, the writer noted a Starling four miles west of Ackley which flew from Franklin County into Hardin County.

The writer observed a pair of Starlings one mile east of Aredale, BUTLER COUNTY, April 21, 1934. These birds were feeding with a large flock of grackles. A pair was seen on the same date two miles east of Ackley on the Butler-Grundy County line. One was noted by the writer two and one-half miles south of Greene, May 19, 1934.

A single Starling was noted by the writer four miles south of Hubbard, HARDIN COUNTY, April 21, 1934.

On October 23, 1933, the writer observed a flock of seven Starlings, two adults and five juveniles, in HAMILTON COUNTY, about 12 miles northeast of Boone.

The writer observed a flock of six birds along the east bank of Cornelia Lake, near the town of Cornelia, WRIGHT COUNTY, April 3, 1934.

Five Starlings were noted by the writer one mile west of Klemme, at the intersection of Highways No. 15 and 179, in HANCOCK COUNTY, April 3, 1934.

A single bird was observed by the writer three and one-half miles east of Rake, WINNEBAGO COUNTY, May 22, 1934.

The writer observed a single Starling at the south end of Union Slough, 11 miles northeast of Algona, KOSSUTH COUNTY, January 23, 1934.

Walter Rosene and the writer observed two Starlings three miles south of Humboldt, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, May 5, 1934. L. N. Larsen reported seeing some Starlings northwest of Humboldt during May, 1934.

The first record for CALHOUN COUNTY is of a single bird seen near Twin Lakes by M. L. Jones on March 20, 1934. The writer saw a single bird one-half mile north of the Calhoun-Green County line, south of Lohrville, June 1, 1934.

M. L. Jones reported seeing two birds north of Pomeroy in POCAHONTAS COUNTY, May 20, 1934. A single bird was noted during September, 1933, but it was not determined whether it was in Pocahontas or Calhoun Counties.

Gerald B. Spawn observed a flock of five or six Starlings in PALO ALTO COUNTY, along the north shore of Lost Island Lake, late in December, 1933. Undoubtedly, this was part of the same flock noted just across the line in Clay County a few days before. Mr. and Mrs. Logan J. Bennett saw a single bird north of Lost Island Lake on May 5, 1934. Walter Rosene and the writer saw one near the same place the next day.

The writer observed a pair of these birds perched in a tree along the southwestern bank of Iowa Lake in EMMET COUNTY, April 12, 1934. Both were in full breeding plumage. While permission was being secured to collect these birds, they unceremoniously flew away. The particular tree in which these birds were perched is within 35 feet of the Iowa-Minnesota state line. One bird was noted by the writer east of Armstrong, May 22, 1934. Another was seen two miles east of Wallingford, June 10, 1934.

Two Starlings were noted by the writer two miles northwest of Milford, DICKINSON COUNTY, July 12, 1934.

A male was collected from a flock of six Starlings seen four miles northwest of Ruthven in Clay County, December 9, 1933. These birds were with a flock of about 30 grackles. On December 13, 1933, a flock of nine was seen in the same locality. Four birds were noted near the Little Sioux River, three miles east of Spencer, March 19, 1934. Walter Rosene and the writer noted two birds at the southeast corner of Round Lake on May 6, 1934. There is an unverified report of one shot by Don Campbell at Spencer during the spring of 1930 or 1931.

A single Starling was noted by the writer in CHEROKEE COUNTY, March 19, 1934. It was seen perched on the cupola of Ingwer Christiansen's barn 10 miles south of Cherokee, along Highway No. 21. An unsuccessful attempt was made to collect it.

Two Starlings were seen by the writer four miles south of Maurice, SIOUX COUNTY, May 24, 1934.

Harlow B. Mills noted a single bird at Westfield, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, March 24, 1934.

Wm. Youngworth recorded (Wilson Bull. XLVI, p. 62) the first WOODBURY COUNTY record. Four were seen October 1, 1933, at Sioux City.

There are three recent observations from MONONA COUNTY, in addition to the first report by Walter Thietje on March 24, 1932. During the spring of 1934, John Holst, Jr., of Denison, found two birds in the cupola of a barn. A single bird was noted by the writer near Blue Lake on May 25, 1934, and a pair was seen on the west side of the lake on May 30, 1934.

On June 9, 1934, the writer observed a single Starling one-half mile south of Auburn, SAC COUNTY, and two birds three miles north of Carroll, CARROLL COUNTY.

On May 26, 1934, the writer observed Starlings in the following

localities: four and one half miles northwest of Dunlap, CRAWFORD COUNTY, two; four miles northwest of the same locality, one; two miles southeast of Manteno, SHELBY COUNTY, one; three and one-half miles northwest of Earling, one; three miles northwest of Earling, four, both localities in Shelby County; one-half mile west of Kimballton, AUDUBON COUNTY, one.

Harlow B. Mills reported seeing a flock of five birds near Guthrie Center, GUTHRIE COUNTY, December 28, 1933.

The writer observed a flock of 22 Starlings one mile northwest of Taylor, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY, July 22, 1934. These birds were feeding with a flock of about 200 grackles.

In a letter from Harlow B. Mills on April 16, 1934, he reported finding Starlings in the following localities: Bridgewater, ADAIR COUNTY, April 13, 1934, one; Corning, ADAMS COUNTY, April 10, 1934, one; Stanton, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, April 12, 1934, one. Mr. Mills listed an observation west of Creston, UNION COUNTY, on April 9, 1934, which is the second record for that county.

On May 11, 1934 Mr. Mills found one bird a mile north of Mt. Ayr, RINGGOLD COUNTY. The writer noted one at Kellerton, June 29, 1934.

Two adult Starlings and four young were seen by the writer six miles east of Bedford, TAYLOR COUNTY, June 29, 1934.

James R. Harlan informed the writer that Idris Wright caught a Starling in his barn at Milo, WARREN COUNTY, December 6, 1933. The Indianola 'Herald' of May 3, 1934, told of O. H. Peasley capturing a Starling west of Center Chapel two days before. On May 4, 1934, the writer noted one bird three miles south of Liberty Center, and a pair eight miles southeast of Indianola.

On May 4, 1934 the writer observed Starlings at the following localities in MONROE COUNTY: eight miles east of Albia, one; seven miles east of Albia, three; one mile east of Georgetown, one; two miles west of Georgetown, one.

The following observations of the Starling were made by the writer in LUCAS COUNTY on May 4, 1934: nine miles east of Chariton, one; five miles east of Chariton, two; seven miles north of Lucas, one. A single bird was seen near the latter locality on May 12, 1934.

A single Starling was seen by the writer near Agency, WAPELLO COUNTY, on May 4, 1934. Several were seen by the writer on June 6, 1934, both north and east of Ottumwa.

A Starling was observed by the writer near West Grove, DAVIS COUNTY, May 12, 1934. Walter Rosene, Jr., saw three birds nine miles south of Ottumwa, near Floris, July 27, 1934.

In addition to the above records, which are believed to be the first occurrences for each of the counties, the writer has observed Starlings several times in Lee, Van Buren, Jefferson, Henry, Louisa, Keokuk, Mahaska, Poweshiek, Polk, Dallas, Boone, Blackhawk, and Floyd Counties, localities from which there are already a few reports.

The nine Iowa counties from which there were no reports of Starlings on July 31, 1934, were: Clark, Greene, Mills, Cass, Harrison, Buena Vista, O'Brien, Osceola, and Lyon.

'The Oologist,' published at Lacon, Illinois, devoted its entire May, 1934, issue to "The Breeding Birds of Iowa," by Philip A. DuMont. This valuable article treats briefly the status of every bird known to have nested in Iowa within the last two decades, and includes 144 species or subspecies. The data are fully up to date, the whole forming an outline which will be of much help to all Iowa bird students, who will thank Mr. DuMont for preparing this useful list. Copies of this issue of 'The Oologist' are obtainable from the publisher at 25c each.—Ed.

## DATA ON MIGRANT BIRDS AT EMMETSBURG, IOWA

By LE ROY TITUS WEEKS

LeRoy Titus Weeks (1854-1927) will long be remembered by Iowa bird students as a naturalist and a poet. The song of the Bobolink holds a greater meaning and beauty for me since hearing the late Rev. Weeks weave its bubbling notes into verse.

Between the years of 1915 and 1925 Rev. Weeks kept a complete record of birds seen in the vicinity of Emmetsburg, Palo Alto County, Iowa. This summary of average dates of earliest arrival for 189 species of migratory birds at Emmetsburg was prepared by Rev. Weeks several years ago to be used in a publication by Mrs. Nettie S. Funk.\* Subsequently, with the curtailment of Mrs. Funk's volume, these data came into my possession. (A photograph of Rev. Weeks appears in 'Iowa Bird Life,' II, 1932, p. 2.)

In the following list species which are permanent residents or winter visitors are not included. The abbreviated terms of comparative abundance, as listed by Rev. Weeks, are as follows: c—common; v.c.—very common; n.v.c.—not very common; r.—rare; v.r.—very rare. I have arranged the list in the order of the new A. O. U. Check-List, and in several instances, such as in the case of the geese, I have substituted the presently accepted common names.—Philip A. DuMont.

Loon, Apr. 13, c.	Ruddy Duck, Apr. 6, r.
Horned Grebe, Apr. 29, v.r.	Hooded Merganser, Apr. 15, r.
Eared Grebe, Apr. 25, v.r.	Am. Merganser, Apr. 30, r.
Pied-billed Grebe, Apr. 14, c.	Red-br. Merganser, Apr. 10, r.
White Pelican, not seen in 10 yrs.	Turkey Vulture, Oct. 1 and 4, only records.
Double-cr. Cormorant, Apr. 11, c.	Sharp-shinned Hawk, Mar. 22, c.
Great Blue Heron, Apr. 21, c.	Cooper's Hawk, Mar. 27, c.
Green Heron, May 10, c.	Red-tailed Hawk, Mar. 28, c.
Black-crown. Heron, Apr. 27, c.	Bald Eagle, seen twice in summer-time.
Am. Bittern, May 4, c.	Marsh Hawk, Mar. 9, c.
Least Bittern, May 7, r.	Osprey, May 4, c.
Canada Goose, Mar. 15, c.	Duck Hawk, seen once; date not recorded.
Lesser Canada Goose, Apr. 27, c.	Sparrow Hawk, Apr. 14, n.v.c.
Hutchin's Goose, Mar. 16, c.	Sandhill Crane, Apr. 8, only record; two seen.
White-front. Goose, Apr. 27, r.	King Rail, May 27, r.
Lesser Snow Goose, Mar. 27, r.	Virginia Rail, May 6, c.
Blue Goose, Mar. 12, r.	Sora, May 3, c.
Mallard, Mar. 18, c.	Florida Gallinule, May 20, r.
Black Duck, Mar. 18, r.	Am. Coot, Apr. 2, v.c.
Gadwall, Mar. 30, n.v.c.	Semi-p. Plover, May 17, c.
Baldpate, Apr. 1, c.	Killdeer, Mar. 19, v.c.
Pintail, Mar. 17, v.c.	Black-bellied Plover, May 25, v.r.
Green-wing. Teal, Apr. 9, c.	Ruddy Turnstone, May 25, only record.
Blue-wing. Teal, Apr. 5, c.	Woodcock, May 18, only record
Shoveller, Mar. 25, v.c.	Wilson's Snipe, Apr. 27, c.
Wood Duck, Mar. 21, r.	Upland Plover, Apr. 22, c.
Redhead, Mar. 24, r.	Spotted Sandpiper, Apr. 24, c.
Ring-neck. Duck, Apr. 5, r.	Solitary Sandpiper, May 3, c.
Canvas-back, Mar. 28, c.	
Lesser Scaup, Mar. 21, v.c.	
Golden-eye, Apr. 3, r.	
Buffle-head, Apr. 9, r.	
White-wing. Scoter, Apr. 25, r.	

\*Mrs. Funk, who was a member of the Des Moines Audubon Society and a former member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, died at Des Moines on July 9, 1934. She was a prominent social worker and was author of several textbooks, including two on birds—"Methods of Bird Study" and "Bird Study Field Book."—Ed.

- Willet, May 8, r.  
 Greater Yellow-legs, Apr. 15, r.  
 Lesser Yellow-legs, May 6, c.  
 Pectoral Sandpiper, Apr. 26, c.  
 Least Sandpiper, May 26, c.  
 Red-backed Sandp. May 25, v.r.  
 Semip. Sandpiper, Apr. 27, r.  
 Marbled Godwit, Apr. 29, r.  
 Hudsonian Godwit, Apr. 17, only record.  
 Sanderling, May 25, only record.  
 Black-necked Stilt, rare; date not recorded.  
 Wilson's Phalarope, May 10, r.  
 Herring Gull, Mar. 29, c.  
 Ring-billed Gull, Apr. 9, v.c.  
 Franklin's Gull, Apr. 26, v.c.  
 Bonaparte's Gull, Apr. 15, v.c.  
 Forster's Tern, Apr. 28, c.  
 Caspian Tern, Mar. 20, r.  
 Least Tern, June 20 and 24, v.v.r.  
 Black Tern, May 12, v.c.  
 Mourning Dove, Mar. 20, v.c.  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, May 17, c.  
 Black-b. Cuckoo, May 29, n.v.c.  
 Whip-poor-will, June 4, 1923, only record.  
 Nighthawk, May 23, n.v.c.  
 Chimney Swift, May 5, v.c.  
 Hummingbird, May 22, c.  
 B. Kingfisher, May 21, c.  
 N. Flicker, Mar. 20, v.c.  
 Red-h. Woodpecker, May 11, v.c.  
 Yellow-b. Sapsucker, Apr. 15, c.  
 E. Kingbird, May 18, v.c.  
 Ark. Kingbird, May 18, c.  
 Crested Flycatcher, May 17, c.  
 Phoebe, Mar. 23, c.  
 Yellow-b. Flycatcher, May 19, r.  
 Alder Flycatcher, May 12, r.  
 Least Flycatcher, May 9, c.  
 Wood Pewee, May 20, c.  
 Tree Swallow, Apr. 27, c.  
 Bank Swallow, Apr. 25, v.c.  
 Rough-wing. Swallow, May 11, c.  
 Barn Swallow, Apr. 29, v.c.  
 Cliff Swallow, May 7, c.  
 Purple Martin, Apr. 16, c.  
 Red-br. Nuthatch, Apr. 12, r.  
 House Wren, May 4, v.c.  
 Winter Wren, Mar. 27, r.  
 Pr. Marsh Wren, May 13, c.  
 Short-b. M. Wren, May 17, c.  
 Catbird, May 10, v.c.  
 Brown Thrasher, Apr. 26, v.c.  
 Robin, Mar. 11, v.c.  
 Wood Thrush, May 21, v.r.  
 Hermit Thrush, Apr. 19, c.  
 Olive-backed Thrush, May 12, c.  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush, May 7, c.  
 Willow Thrush, May 10, r.  
 Bluebird, Mar. 11, c.  
 Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher, May 16, r.  
 Golden-cr. Kinglet, Apr. 5, c.  
 Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Apr. 7, c.  
 Migrant Shrike, Apr. 3, c.  
 Bell's Vireo, Apr. 27,  
 Yellow-thr. Vireo, May 14, c.  
 Blue-headed Vireo, May 14, c.  
 Red-eyed Vireo, May 13, c.  
 Philadelphia Vireo, May 12, c.  
 Warbling Vireo, May 12, c.  
 Black & White Warbler, May 8, c.  
 Prothonotary Warbler, May 16, 1923; only record.  
 Blue-wd. Warbler, one fall record.  
 Tenn. Warbler, May 10, v.c.  
 Orange-cr. Warbler, May 11, c.  
 Nashville Warbler, May 25, c.  
 N. Parula Warbler, May 6, n.v.c.  
 Yellow Warbler, May 8, v.c.  
 Magnolia Warbler, May 14, v.c.  
 Myrtle Warbler, Apr. 18, v.c.  
 Bl'k-thr. Gr. Warb., May 13, n.v.c.  
 Blackburnian Warbler, May 16, r.  
 Chestnut-sd. Warbler, May 8, c.  
 Bay-br. Warbler, May 16, n.v.c.  
 Black-poll Warbler, May 13, v.c.  
 Palm Warbler, no date recorded  
 Oven-bird, May 11, c.  
 Grinnell's W.-Thrush, May 4, c.  
 Louisiana W.-Thrush, May 8, c.  
 Conn. Warbler, May 16, r.  
 Mourning Warbler, May 19, r.  
 N. Yellow-throat, Apr. 9, v.c.  
 Wilson's Warbler, May 14, c.  
 Canada Warbler, May 21, c.  
 Am. Redstart, May 14, c.  
 Bobolink, May 8, c.  
 E. Meadowlark, Apr. 18, n.v.c.  
 W. Meadowlark, Mar. 12, v.c.  
 Yellow-hd. Blackbird, Apr. 28, c.  
 Red-wd. Blackbird, Mar. 14, c.  
 Orchard Oriole, May 19, r.  
 Baltimore Oriole, May 6, c.  
 Rusty Blackbird, Apr. 18, c.  
 Bronzed Grackle, Mar. 20, c.  
 Cowbird, Apr. 14, c.  
 Scarlet Tanager, May 10, r.  
 Rose-br. Grosbeak, May 6, c.  
 Indigo Bunting, May 29, n.v.c.  
 Dickcissel, May 18, c.  
 Purple Finch, Apr. 27, r.  
 Goldfinch, Apr. 22, c.  
 Towhee, Apr. 25, r.  
 Savannah Sparrow, Apr. 11, v.c.  
 Grasshopper Sparrow, Apr. 12, v.c.  
 Henslow's Sparrow, Apr. 30, r.



Lecote's Sparrow, Apr. 27, r.  
 Vesper Sparrow, Apr. 20, r.  
 Lark Sparrow, May 20, v.r.  
 Slate-col. Junco, Mar. 19, v.c.  
 Chipping Sparrow, Apr. 11, c.  
 Clay-col. Sparrow, Apr. 28, c.  
 Field Sparrow, Apr. 6, n.v.c.

Harris's Sparrow, May 1, c.  
 White-cr. Sparrow, May 13, v.r.  
 White-thr. Sparrow, Apr. 25, v.c.  
 Fox Sparrow, Mar. 31, c.  
 Lincoln's Sparrow, Apr. 25, r.  
 Swamp Sparrow, Apr. 20, c.  
 Song Sparrow, Mar. 20, v.c.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Summer Field Work and an Announcement.**—The author spent the first eight weeks of the summer of 1934 with the birds and 4-H boys and girls in 25 counties of the state. At week-end camps and field-day meets he took the boys and girls on field trips to hear and see Bob-whites and other common birds of the fields and wooded pastures.

In addition, the young bird-lovers were shown the conditions favorable to birds and how to improve the environment for more bird life and at the same time improve the farm as a whole. He remembers particularly the Mockingbird heard and seen near Corning, July 12, the numerous Redstarts and red squirrels at Rice Lake State Park, and the Great Blue Heron that posed in a tall, scraggly, white pine tree at Pine Lake.



BOB-WHITE ON NEST  
 (Courtesy of Iowa State College)

On August 15 the work was taken over by Logan Bennett, who will devote all his time for the next six months to teaching farm boys and girls of Iowa farms to care for Bob-whites, pheasants and songbirds. Mr. Bennett expects to supervise an intensive feeding program, especially in southern counties. We shall see that he is provided with a list of the members of this Union and suggest that you and he work together. If you wish Mr. Bennett's services in the interest of birds, see your County Farm Bureau agent who can call him to your county without any charge to the county.—GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON.

**An Experience with a Long-eared Owl.**—In the semi-dusk of early dawn, on November 4, 1933, I noticed a bird perched on a rock close by. On being flushed, it made a low, short flight of a few yards and landed under a low shed. I followed it to determine, if possible, to what species it belonged. Reaching toward it, I took hold of one wing and extended it. The Owl (for such it proved to be) made no protest. Being in a hurry to go to my day's work, I put the bird

inside of a closed building, for inspection and identification later. Upon my return at noon I found the owl dead. It proved to be a specimen of the Long-eared Owl, and is the first and only one I have observed. Identification was verified by Dr. G. O. Hendrickson of Ames. Query: Was the owl sick when picked up, or just unusually tame? No injury could be detected. Keyes and Williams (1889) state: "At Charles City, a Long-eared Owl was picked up on the prairie, several miles from any woods; it was not injured, yet allowed itself to be taken with the hand."—HENRY BIRKELAND, Nevada, Iowa.

**American Egret and Herons at Lake Okoboji.**—On August 4, 1934, in company with Miss Mary A. Tyrrell of Lincoln, Nebraska, I visited a region of marsh and small lakes which adjoins West Okoboji Lake. Here, on a previous trip, we had found Great Blue, Black-crowned Night and Green Herons. On this particular morning our attention was drawn to a snow-white bird, heron-like in appearance. The bordering willows enabled us to approach very closely, and we discovered that the bird was the Little Blue Heron in immature plumage. After giving us a very satisfactory study, the bird flew to the sandy beach of a small lake adjoining this area. While we were watching it from the new view-point, another, much larger white bird flew in and dropped down near the Little Blue Heron, making a perfect contrast in size. This bird had a distinctly yellow bill, while the smaller one had a very dark one. By referring to Forbush and other authorities we were assured that we had had the good fortune to see the American Egret and the Little Blue Heron.—LAVINA DRAGOO, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Carolina Wren Nesting in Allamakee County.**—On July 27, 1934, I found a nest of the Carolina Wren a mile and one-half north of Waukon Junction, Allamakee County, Iowa. The bulky nest, containing young, was located behind a small board that had been nailed to cover a decayed space on the interior wall of a low log shelter at the fisherman's camp of W. R. Wines. The building stands a short distance from the shore of the Mississippi River. One of the parent birds made several trips to the nest, entering the shelter by way of a decayed corner, and passed within ten feet of Mr. Wines and me as we watched. Entrance to the shelter was not possible, but the young were seen as they arose over the edge of the nest when the parent bird arrived with food. As far as I know, this establishes the most northern breeding record of this species in Iowa.—O. P. ALLERT, Giard, via McGregor, Iowa.

**Unsuccessful Robin Nestings.**—About June 10, 1934, a pair of Robins began building a nest in an elm tree about three feet from the wall of our house and ten feet from the ground; it was located directly under an upstairs window where operations could be easily seen. In due time four blue eggs appeared in the nest. The birds took turns brooding and shading the eggs as occasion demanded. After some five or six days had passed (some very hot) I noticed the nest was deserted but the eggs were still there.

At about this time a pair of Robins began building a nest almost directly above the first nest but 30 feet from the ground. Observations were impossible any further than to notice that the nest was finished and appeared to be occupied a few days then also deserted. During all this time a flock of six or seven Screech Owls (evidently a pair of adults and a brood of young) also occupied the same tree part of every night. Query: Did the Robins desert their eggs because they were addled by the extreme heat or did the owls make a meal of the Robins?—E. D. NAUMAN, Sigourney, Iowa.

**Wanted: A Permanent Residence.**—Prairie Horned Larks are common winter residents throughout northwestern Iowa. A large flock gleaning weed seeds from the oat stubble is a cheerful and lively party on a winter afternoon. Those in the rear continually rise and fly ahead of the main group, so that one's impression is of haste and impatience, whereas, in reality, the individual birds spend considerable time threshing out the various seed capsules, and the snow is packed with a crisscross of tracks.

The extensive laying aside of farm lands in the spring of 1934 under government contract seemed likely to be of great benefit to upland birds. As spring advanced Prairie Horned Larks remained and for a time were quite as abundant as the Dickcissel would be later in the season. To have Horned Larks breeding in this locality is extremely uncommon, and there is no other explanation than that the weedy, uncultivated acres were directly the cause of their nesting here.

During the latter part of May these charming little birds were still a prominent attraction in the field. Soon after this date, however, these areas were opened to hungry livestock and much of the cover was removed. Any nests yet in the field were consequently destroyed, and no adult birds were seen a few days later, the last recorded being June 6.

Since these birds commence nesting very early, some ungrazed land must be left for them in areas where intensive cultivation is prevalent. What Iowa really needs is a prairie park suited to her various dwellers of the grasslands.—FRED G. BLISS, Washta, Iowa.

**Experiences with Birds in Des Moines.**—I have had varied experiences with the birds on my home grounds this year. My greatest thrill was seeing a Prothonotary Warbler on my feeding-shelf the day before Mother's Day. The warbler stayed for three or four minutes and was much admired.

There have been unusually large numbers of baby birds reared on or near my place this year. At times young woodpeckers have been very numerous. One Sunday we counted 46 visits to my large suet tray in 45 minutes, mostly Downy, Hairy and Red-headed Woodpeckers and Flickers. The three suet sticks and five suet trays have been emptied repeatedly—I think the drought occasioned this. I found the earth worms remained deeper in the ground, so the birds had a hard time finding this class of food and resorted to the suet. I have seen Robins, Catbirds, Baltimore Orioles, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks trying to snatch off bits of suet, a difficult feat for them. Twice I had broods of young Crested Flycatchers filling the air with their calls, which persisted for two or three days until they sought other haunts.

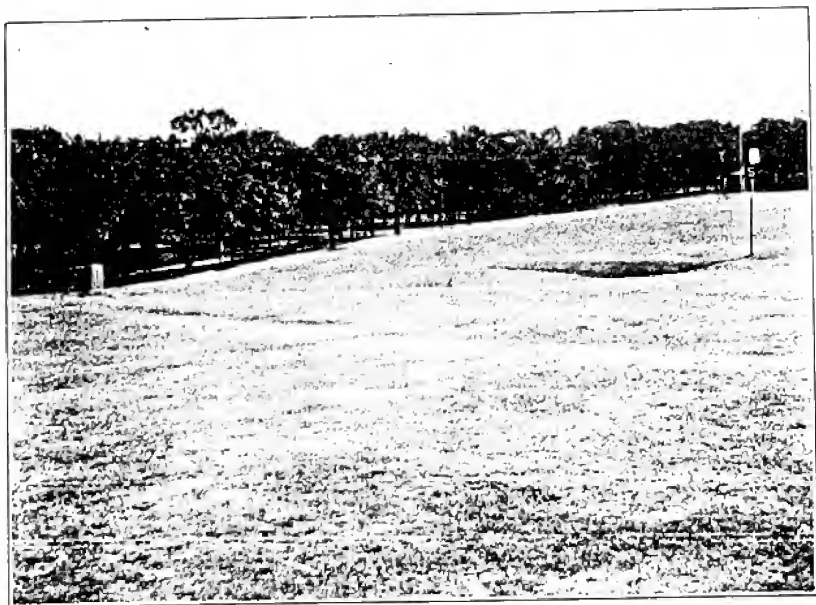
The Cardinals brought in their third brood about three weeks ago. They have raised many broods on my place during the last decade. The latest brood consisted of three babies. I had the pleasure of holding one of them in my hand for a few minutes. One of the little Cardinals was found hiding in an oak branch which had been broken from a tree by the wind and lain where it fell until evening. When I picked up the limb I found the small bird. It tried to fly away from me, but was still rather weak-winged. Its protesting squeaks brought the parent birds almost immediately. I did not wish to alarm them and I placed their baby on a low limb. All was well.

I have a nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak 20 feet up in a beautiful bur oak tree. Four young were hatched, and lately they have been entertaining me with their attempts at singing—a sort of squeaky gurgle. Another nest is a Mourning Dove's on the open roof of one of the latticed pergolas.

Among my bird visitors are Robins, Brown Thrashers, Wood Pewees,

Tufted Titmice, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Catbirds, Bluebirds, Goldfinches and a pair of shy Bob-whites.—MRS. TONI R. WENDELBURG, Des Moines, August 1, 1934.

A July Day at No. 5 on Grandview Golf Course in Des Moines.—Anxious to know what birds might still be seen at "No. 5" which is located near some woods where formerly dwelled the Wood Thrush and Ovenbird, we hiked over the green, through the ravine and a field near by and got the following list.



GRANDVIEW GOLF COURSE, DES MOINES, IOWA

There are still many oak, walnut and elm trees left in the ravine on which a full orchestra of Red-headed Woodpeckers, including many young, were beating a veritable anvil chorus, joined occasionally by Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. Crested Flycatchers and Wood Peewees were abundant. Blue Jays, Chickadees, Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, Western House Wrens, Catbirds, Brown Thrashers and Bluebirds were there in goodly numbers. In quite a large patch of boneset and Solomon seal we found a Yellow Warbler and Northern Yellowthroat. A Baltimore Oriole, a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a Cardinal and several Goldfinches added color. Bob-whites whistled. Mourning Doves and Chipping Sparrows as well as Kingbirds and Chimney Swifts were present, and directly upon the green where a rotating sprinkler was playing many Robins and young Flickers were busy enjoying their special delicacies, angle-worms and ants. When players arrived, five Red-winged Blackbirds would leave the green to take a position in trees nearby, and would return immediately when the players left, Bronzed Grackles joining them occasionally.

Our surprise was not to find a single Meadowlark. This course, as others in Des Moines, is being enlarged. Many of the trees and shrubs will go down, and naturally it will soon be difficult to get a July list of 28 birds when the habitats of many have disappeared.—MR. AND MRS. A. J. PALAS, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Scarlet Tanager Nests on Golf Course.**—A pair of Scarlet Tanagers nested on the Fairfield Golf Course this year. Unfortunately, they were either frightened away before the eggs were hatched or the nest was destroyed in some way. It is possible that the eggs were hatched before the birds were seen. The Scarlet Tanager is a rare bird in this locality, bird observers generally seeing one or more during the spring migration, and the finding of a nest is very rare. The strange thing about it is that the birds chose the most conspicuous place on the golf course for the site of their nest, within 20 feet of a pergola and well surrounded by scattering trees of small size. It was located on top of a branch about 20 feet from the ground. The writer wanted to secure the nest for the museum at the library or at Parsons College, but he waited too long and the nest was either blown away by the wind or someone else got it without permission.—PAUL S. JUNKIN, Fairfield, Iowa.

**Swainson's Hawk and Burrowing Owl Breeding in Emmet County.**—During an early morning stroll along the Des Moines River valley just north of Estherville on May 8, 1934, I saw a Swainson's Hawk perched in the top of a tall elm. The hawk seemed quite tame and when, after too close an approach on my part, it left its perch it still circled among the scattered elms that remained along the river bottom. Later, when I again saw the hawk in the same place, it occurred to me that it might have a nesting mate near by. A search among the trees revealed the nest located about 40 feet from the ground, near the top of a spreading elm. No bird could be seen on the nest from below, but a stick thrown up into the tree caused the female to leave the nest and join the male, which was circling about and uttering occasional screams. I made no attempt to climb to the nest. The female was last seen on the nest on June 15. The next morning both birds were soaring over the dense woods nearby, but though I watched for young birds, I did not see any then or since. For over a month I saw no more of the hawks, but after July 20 the male was seen in the vicinity occasionally.

Late in April, 1934, Albert Wolden reported a pair of Burrowing Owls on his farm four miles south of Gruver. On May 6 I visited the place and saw both owls. They had taken possession of an old badger hole on a knoll. I did not again visit the place until June 24, but did not see the owls at that time. However, my brother saw them later, and about the middle of July saw a young owl outside the hole. He attempted to catch it, but it escaped into the hole.—B. O. WOLDEN, Estherville, Iowa.

## BIRD BOOKS

"Songs of Wild Birds," by Albert R. Brand.

This publication consists of a 91-page book and two double-faced phonograph records. The first part of the book is divided into three chapters which are entitled: Recording Bird Song (describing how the records were made); The How and Why of Bird Song; How to Use the Book. The second part (pp. 51-87) lists the 35 species of birds whose songs are contained on the records and gives considerable information regarding their songs—approximate singing dates, location when singing, calls, descriptions of songs, etc.

The book is an indication that ornithology is keeping abreast of modern electrical science. In the past we have had phonograph records giving whistled imitations of birds' songs, but at best they were imperfections and only fairly suggestive of the real songs. Using the

latest electrical equipment, Mr. Brand has gone into the fields and woods with portable microphone and "sound truck" and has come back, not with imitations of birds' songs but with the genuine article recorded on his sound films. These films are subjected to various mechanical processes in the laboratory, during which operation the songs are permanently transcribed to the records which accompany the book. The mechanical side of this work forms a very interesting story, which the reader will follow eagerly. When we read of the difficulties which Mr. Brand faced, then listen to the recorded songs of Wood Thrush, Whip-poor-will, Cardinal, and others, we can appreciate how well he surmounted these obstacles and achieved his purpose.

Success in reproducing the songs from the records will depend on the kind of phonograph used. We recommend using one with the modern electrical reproducing unit or speaker. Results on other machines are likely to be disappointing. These records have great educational possibilities, as well as offering opportunities for bird lecturers to have their audiences hear the actual songs of birds.

The book is published by Thomas Nelson and Sons, 381 Fourth Ave., New York. The price (with records) is \$2.—F. J. P.

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**Permanent Files of 'Iowa Bird Life.'**—Not long ago we made an attempt to locate all sets of 'The Iowa Ornithologist,' published 1894-1898. Of the 23 known sets, only ten are in institutional libraries. This magazine is rare and accessible to few because no apparent effort was made to have copies permanently filed in the libraries of large institutions. This filing of copies should be the aim of the small ornithological publications whose circulations are limited and whose careers are of uncertain duration. We have made an attempt to get complete files of 'Iowa Bird Life' into many institutional libraries where we may reasonably expect the copies to be bound and preserved. We plan to issue a full index at the end of each five-year period, when the copies can be conveniently bound with index. The first index will cover the years 1931-1935. Below we give a list of our permanent files. A few of these are on our exchange list, but nearly all are subscribers. We expect this list to grow.

American Museum of Natural History, New York; Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.; Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio; Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; Historical, Memorial and Art Dept. of Iowa, Des Moines; Iowa State College Library, Ames; National Assn. of Audubon Societies, New York; Roosevelt Station, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; The University Libraries, Iowa City, Iowa; U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Wilson Ornithological Club Library, Ann Arbor, Mich.; McGill University Library, Montreal, Quebec; Royal Museum of Natural History, Brussels, Belgium.

Public libraries in the following Iowa cities: Atlantic, Carroll, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Dubuque, Marshalltown, Onawa, Ottumwa, Sioux City, Webster City.

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Our stock of back numbers of 'Iowa Bird Life' includes only 34 complete sets. Of some issues there are as many as 60 copies, but for most issues the number is considerably less. Those who need certain issues to complete their files should get them at once, as we shall soon sell the scarce ones only with complete sets.

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Contrary to his statement in "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" (1933), Phil DuMont has recently learned that R. M. Anderson's "Birds of Iowa" (1907) is not out of print. The Davenport (Iowa) Public Museum has at least 500 copies, which are available at \$2.50 each.

"The Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin," by Charles B. Cory, is still available though published in 1909. It is sold by the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, for \$3 a copy plus 17c for postage to Iowa. It is a book of 767 pages, profusely illustrated, and bound in heavy wrappers. It contains much valuable material and is well worth acquiring, even though it is a publication of many years ago.

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A new, revised edition of "The Birds of Louisiana" is to be off the press about the first of September, according to word received from the State of Louisiana Dept. of Conservation, New Orleans, by whom the book will be distributed.

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The 1934 "Year Book" of the Indiana Audubon Society was issued in July. As usual, it is an attractive volume, well printed and illustrated. Its 84 pages include many interesting articles on Indiana birds. The book is dedicated to Alden H. Hadley, who was the "guest speaker" at our Ames meeting in May. A portrait accompanies a biographical sketch of Mr. Hadley. Copies of the book are sold for \$1 by the Secretary, Miss Margaret R. Knox, 4030 Park Ave., Indianapolis.

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The Northeastern Iowa Press Association, Elkader, Iowa, has issued a very attractive map-folder called "Little Switzerland of America." The map is pictorial and shows all the historic and scenic places in northeastern Iowa. The accompanying descriptive text is both interesting and useful. We note that Mr. Allert's bird museum at Giard is indicated on the map and described. The Press Association sends copies free to those requesting them.

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**Membership News.**—Several of our prominent members have recently received appointments in governmental conservation work. Chas. J. Spiker, lately with the New York State College of Forestry as a field naturalist, has been appointed a supervisor of game refuges for the Dept. of the Interior in the Division of National Parks and Forests. His office is at Washington, D. C.; and his territory includes the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, the Great Smoky Mountains, and the Mammoth Cave.

Wesley F. Kubichek and Walter W. Bennett have been appointed to the U. S. Biological Survey. Philip A. DuMont, Wm. Youngworth and Walter Rosene, Jr. are working on special Federal game refuge projects within Iowa in conjunction with the Fish and Game Commission.

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Miss Dorothy Jones of Davenport, Iowa, is a new member of our Union.

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