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VOLUME II

JANUARY, 1934

NUMBER 1

# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW



*A Review of Nebraska Ornithology*

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# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

A Review of Nebraska Ornithology

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## TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF BIRD STUDY AT RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA

By J. M. BATES\*

My ornithological activities while residing at Red Cloud, Webster County, have been directed more toward creating an interest in birds on the part of others than in a search for new or rare bird forms for the state. During the last four years I have had charge of fifteen different outstations in the mission field, so that I have been out of town much of the time. This duty has also kept me pretty well occupied with the necessary reading and writing, so that my tramps have been but few, and those mostly botanical. Since 1889 I have been reporting on the migration of our birds to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. In order to do this, I found it necessary to interest a corps of new bird students, whose observations, checked by my own sharp questioning and previous experience, would enable the making of a decent showing of forty or fifty species each year. Two or three different years a bird census was taken on an eighty acre farm owned by Mr. Charles S. Ludlow, our efficient local weather reporter, and my most helpful co-worker. Being in a section of Nebraska that had not been much worked before has given our reports an added importance. I do not recall recording any bird previously unknown to the Nebraska list, except the Gray-headed Junco taken by Mr. Ludlow on April 18, 1911, and recorded (as of April 19) by Dr. R. H. Wolcott (*Proc., N. O. U.*, v. p. 38; April 29, 1911), but we have noted several species near Red Cloud that are rare in the state.

I identified the Evening Grosbeak here on April 20, 1904. I saw a Rocky Mountain Say Phoebe at Naponee, Franklin County, thirty-five miles west of Red Cloud, on June 3, 1905. I think it breeds there. We noted the Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Red Cloud on the very late date of October 23, 1909. The Wilson Pileolated Warbler was taken at Red Cloud by Mr. Ludlow on September 28, 1910. A flock of about forty Piñon Jays spent the winter of 1910-11 at Red Cloud. They were again seen there during the winters of 1916-17 and 1919-20. We have identified at Red Cloud three subspecies of the Horned Lark; the Saskatchewan, the Prairie and the Hoyt. The Pink-sided Junco was taken at Red Cloud by Mr. Ludlow in December, 1911. A specimen of the Gray-checked Thrush, found dead by Mr. Ludlow in his yard on May 15, 1917, where it was being picked at by chickens which had somewhat mangled its head, was sent to Prof. Swenk at the time and identified by him, but I have no further data concerning the species. In May, 1917, Dr. H. Hapeman of Minden, Kearney County, saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the town. The owner of the place where it was seen had noted it previously on several occasions. The Lazuli Bunting was also seen at

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\*This article is an abridgment of a paper that was written by Rev. Bates on April 10, 1924, and read by him on the program of the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the N. O. U., held at Lincoln on May 9, 1924.—Ed.

Minden, on May 10, 1918. I found the Western Warbling Vireo nesting near Chesterfield post office, in Cherry County, on July 13, 1918, and was informed that it came there every year. On April 20, 1922, we saw the Eastern Phoebe with young, at Red Cloud. On April 24, 1922, fledglings of the Bronzed Grackle were out of the nest here, and well feathered. On May 4, 1924, Mrs. George W. Trine saw an Avocet on the Republican River near here. I have had two reports of the Scarlet Tanager on the Republican River at Red Cloud, but it certainly is rare. Two or three years ago I noted the Western Sandpiper in this region.

On July 3, 1913, near Whitman, Grant County, the Western Willet was quite fierce in scolding me from its young. The Wilson Phalarope was also breeding at the same place, and showed great distress at my presence. During the same month I found a large colony of the American Black-crowned Night Heron nesting on muskrat houses on an island in Lone Tree Lake near Kennedy, Cherry County, and was informed that the birds nested there every year. Near Valentine, Cherry County, I found the Piñon Jay summering that month for the first time. Mr. W. H. Kennedy reported to me that he saw the Eastern Cardinal near the bridge across the Niobrara River about eight miles southwest of Valentine, about 1909. Several reported in 1917 of having seen the bird on the Middle Loup near Arcadia, Valley County, in late years, and I found it nesting fifteen miles north of Minden, Kearney County, on June 18, 1917. In the summer of 1917 a pair of Western Blue Grosbeaks nested in a Virginia creeper over the window of W. H. Kennedy's sod house at Chesterfield post office, within reach of the hand from the sitting room. So much for faunal ornithology.

My experience with actual and potential bird lovers has been most interesting. When I had been in Red Cloud only five months, I was called upon, with three hours notice, to substitute for a bureau lecturer before the local High School graduating class. I addressed about five hundred people on "Birds and Man", from the economic and aesthetic viewpoints, and received many thanks for my effort. A year later, at Beaver Crossing, I gave a similar address before the Teachers' Institute, to an audience of about one hundred and fifty. Since then I have given, by request, several "bird talks" to the lower grades in Red Cloud, Arcadia, St. Paul, Wood River, and other Nebraska towns. Twice in Red Cloud I have been called upon by the P. E. O. Club to address the members on phases of bird study. They have been stimulated to put the subject into the annual program and frequently to consult me about certain species of birds that are nesting or appearing near the homes of various of the members.

I have induced five or six persons in Red Cloud, and other towns, to join our Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. But chiefly I congratulate myself upon the enlistment of Mr. Ludlow in this good cause. Without his assistance, I should now have practically no report to make. I was introduced to him not far from twenty years ago, as a man who took an interest in nature study, but was without chart or rudder. I quickly supplied him with both, and no one could have made better use of them. He is well situated to note the migration and nesting of birds, his farm being located one mile south of the post office, with a cottonwood grove on the north, a large orchard on the east, and on the south a stream with willow, boxelder, cottonwood, ash and black walnut trees widely bordering it. Alfalfa fields and pastures offer a shelter for the ground sparrows and other shy birds. I do not know who has enjoyed and profited the most by our union of forces, he or I. He is a natural naturalist, and has taken to the plant world as readily as to the denizens of the air. If one could establish one such observer in every center of population, we should get results that would mean much for our increase in knowledge of animal and plant life.

## GENERAL NOTES

**A Midsummer Red Crossbill Record for South-central Nebraska.**—On or about July 12, 1933, a flock of fifty or more Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra* subsp.) was noted feeding in the two Douglas Fir trees in the yard at my home here. The birds spent most of their time feeding on the cones in these two trees, and remained for about the following ten days before departing.—MISS RUTH M. MAUCK, *Nelson, Nebr.*

**An Early Fall Record for the American Bohemian Waxwing.**—On September 19, 1933, I noted two American Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*) in the pear trees at this place. I had never seen this species before, but very distinctly saw the black throat patch and the characteristic white markings on the wings. I am told that this is an unusually early fall date for the species in Nebraska.—MISS RUTH M. MAUCK, *Nelson, Nebr.*

**The Clark Nutcracker at Kearney, Buffalo County.**—On October 1, 1933, I was in a duck blind on the Platte River two miles east of the Kearney bridge. Happening to look toward the north bank, to my surprise I saw a flock of ten Clark Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) flying across the river from the north to the south bank. They flew within a few yards of me, and there can be no possible mistake in their identification.—CYRUS A. BLACK, *Kearney, Nebr.*

**A Sixth Nebraska Record of the European Starling.**—I note in the columns of the *Nebraska Bird Review* (*antea*, i, pp. 15, 30 and 61) that the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) has been reported in Nebraska from near Western, Saline County; from seven miles northwest and from three miles north of Lincoln, Lancaster County; from five miles north of Crete, Saline County; and from Saint Edward, Boone County. A sixth Nebraska record is that of a bird that I noted in the yard at my home at 3103 South 35th Street, Lincoln, on or about September 10, 1933. It was in company with five or six Bronzed Grackles, and my attention was first drawn to it by its peculiar note. I then noticed its spotted plumage, stubby tail and other Starling characteristics.—MISS LOUISA E. WILSON, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The Seventh Nebraska European Starling Record.**—On November 26, 1933, a farmer living here in Dodge County near Hooper brought me a live European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*). He stated that there were a number of these birds roosting in his barn, and that they had been there all fall. I asked him to watch these birds and report to me if they left or if they stayed there all winter. So far I have heard nothing from him, and infer that the birds are still present on his farm.—JOSEPH E. STIPSKY, *Hooper, Nebr.*

**The Lewis Woodpecker and Other Birds in Logan and Lincoln Counties, Nebraska.**—During the latter part of November, 1933, I was at the Shadonix farm, located in northeastern Lincoln County, seven miles south of Stapleton, Logan County. I had driven into the yard and was talking to Mr. Shadonix, when a bird that appeared all black and looked like a half-sized crow came flying past, with a swoop and glide resembling that of a flicker. The following day I took my field glasses and studied this bird more closely. I was thrilled to find that while it was mostly greenish black, there was a silver-gray band around its neck, widening to form a bib-like area on the breast, and that the remainder of the underparts was deep red. On consulting my books I positively identified the bird as an adult Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewis*), probably one that had wandered southeast to our section from the Black

Hills region. The bird was still wintering about the Shadonix farm on January 20, 1934, and had become quite tame, at least with that family. I am inclined to think that it is a rare visitor in this section. Last fall we noted two other species of birds around Stapleton for the first time. These were the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina* subsp.), and several finches that were identified as the Cassin Purple Finch (*Carduelis cassinii*).—EARL W. GLANDON, Stapleton, Nebr.

**A Hybrid Between the Common Mallard and American Pintail Ducks.**—On November 23, 1933, Mr. John Den of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, shot a beautiful male specimen of what I regard as a hybrid between the Common Mallard and American Pintail ducks, and sent the specimen to me for mounting. This bird is about the size of a medium-sized Common Mallard. Its head is green with rich brown feathers mixed in, about half Mallard and half Pintail. There is a broad band of white nearly around the neck, as in the Mallard, but also a short white stripe up the lower sides of the neck, much as in the Pintail. The underparts also share about half and half the characteristics of the two



species. The bill closely resembles that of the Pintail, and the coloration of the back is also of the Pintail. The tail is a combination. For the basal few inches the central tail feathers resemble the long tail feathers of the Pintail, but the rest of the tail is that of the Mallard, with the long tail feathers curling upward. The speculum is the size of that of the Mallard, but of a bright green color, about like that of the speculum of a Green-winged Teal. The breast is purplish chestnut like that of a Mallard, but the color is very pale. The tarsi and feet are pale orange colored, as in the Mallard. I carefully mounted this unusual specimen, which is shown in the accompanying illustration.—CYRUS A. BLACK, Kearney, Nebr.

**A Nebraska Record of the Whooping Crane for the Fall of 1933.**—In his paper on the Whooping Crane in the October, 1933, number of the *Review*, Prof. Swenk closed the Nebraska record with the spring of 1933. For the fall of 1933, I have at least one additional record. On October 1, 1933, before the hour of duck shooting began (at noon), Mr. James Flannery, of Kearney, saw a lone bird standing on a sandbar in the Platte River, two miles east of the bridge at Odessa, Buffalo County. Mr. Flannery says that this crane was pure white, stood about five feet

tall, and looked like the mounted specimens in my collection, so I think there is no chance of an error in identification.—CYRUS A. BLACK, *Kearney, Nebr.*

**Notes on Some Birds of Prey Observed in Webster County in 1933.**—Between September 19 and November 30, 1933, I noted the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) rather frequently, and my impression is that these birds were fairly common in this locality during the past fall. Two specimens in the immature plumage were mounted by me for my collection. On the evening of September 30, a flock of about forty Swainson Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*), with a sprinkling of Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawks among them, was noted not far from Sand Creek. They seemed to be moving leisurely, frequently alighting upon the ground. Specimens of both the Swainson Hawk and the American Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus s. johannis*) in the black color phase have been noted this fall, the former earlier in the season, the latter more recently. A single individual of the Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius* subsp.) was noted on September 28, and the same or another one on October 5, in both instances near Sand Creek.

On April 23, 1933, I discovered a pair of unusually dark colored adult Eastern Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*), with their two young birds, on Sand Creek. I collected the four of them the next day, and mounted them for my collection. On December 7, 1933, Mr. Peter Hansen shot a first-year male Great Horned Owl, apparently a dark colored example of *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*, near Holstein, in Adams County, about ten miles north of this place, which specimen he brought to me for mounting.—HAROLD TURNER, *Bladen, Nebr.*

**Notes on a Winter Collecting Trip in Northern and Western Nebraska.**—During the latter part of December, 1933, we went on a short collecting trip for winter birds to northern and western Nebraska. We left Lincoln on December 20. December 21 was spent en route through northern Nebraska from Butte, Boyd County, to Chadron, Dawes County, and we reached Squaw Canyon, in Sioux County, on the morning of December 22. We collected in Squaw Canyon on December 22 to 26, inclusive. On December 27 we drove from Squaw Canyon to near Kilgore, Cherry County, on the Minnechadusa, where we remained over December 28 and 29. On December 30 we resumed the return trip through eastern Cherry, Brown, Keyapaha and Boyd Counties to Butte, returning to Lincoln on December 31. The weather while we were in Squaw Canyon, on December 22 to 26, was not especially severe, particularly in the protected canyon itself. On the afternoon of December 22, in Squaw Canyon, the temperature stood at 60° F., but by the following afternoon it had dropped to 39° F., and at dawn on December 24 it was down to 7.5° F. At 8:00 A. M. on December 25, in Squaw Canyon, it was 5.5° F. December 25 at 11:00 P. M., it was -4° F., our lowest reading on the trip, and at 8:00 A. M. on December 26, it was -1.5° F. Thirty-two species of birds were noted on the trip. Subspecific identifications of the specimens taken were made with the cooperation of Prof. M. H. Swenk. The list follows:

American Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus s. johannis*).—Five or six of these hawks were seen on December 27 in Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan and Cherry Counties between Squaw Creek and Kilgore.

American Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*).—Seen along Squaw Creek every day that we were there. On December 23 we saw two of these birds as they ran three Sharp-tailed Grouse into the brush.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*).—Two seen near Neligh, Antelope County, on December 31.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius* subsp.).—One seen near Warbonnet Creek, on December 22, and another seen near Genoa, Nance County, December 31. Probably the former was *F. s. phalaena* and the latter



*F. s. sparverius*, but as no specimens were taken one cannot be sure of this.

Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris*).—One noted near Eli, Cherry County, on December 21, and thirty-two in a cut-over meadow near that place on December 27; three seen along Squaw Creek, in the valley, on December 23; four seen in a tree near Crawford, Dawes County, on December 27, one of which, an immature female, was collected; and a large flock of about 125 seen along the road near Brocksburg, Keyapaha County, on December 30. No Greater Prairie Chickens were noted on this trip.

Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus* subsp.).—Two seen along Squaw Creek on December 23, and again on December 24, when one specimen, a young adult female, was collected.

Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*).—An adult female seen, and collected, at open water in Squaw Canyon, on December 26.

Western Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus occidentalis*).—Noted along Squaw Creek, one in the valley on December 23, two in the pines on the ridge on December 24, and one in the valley on December 26. No specimens taken, but referred to this form as it is the known resident subspecies in the region.

Common Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*).—Two birds believed to be this species were seen in the pines on December 22, and one definitely identified along Squaw Creek in the valley on December 26.

Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus monticola*).—An immature male collected in Squaw Canyon on December 23, the only one seen.

Batchelder Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens leucurus*).—Several seen in Squaw Canyon on December 23 and 24. Two immature females were collected there on December 23 and an adult male on December 24.

Saskatchewan Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris enthymia*).—Horned Larks were common in Cherry County on December 21, in company with the Common Lapland Longspurs. Hundreds of Horned Larks were seen in the road, out of the snow, between Squaw Canyon, Sioux County, and Kilgore, Cherry County, on December 27. An adult male collected at Harrison, Sioux County, on December 27, is referable to this subspecies, if the same is regarded as distinct from *O. a. leucolaema*.

American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*).—In Squaw Canyon, about eight were noted on December 22 and 23, about fifteen on December 24, and about twenty on December 26, one adult female being collected there on the latter date. One was seen near Neligh, Antelope County, on December 31.

Eastern Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*).—Became increasingly less numerous from east to west, and none at all seen west of Gordon, Sheridan County. Many hundreds were seen along the road in Boyd, Holt and Antelope Counties, between Butte and Neligh, on December 31.

Piñon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*).—A flock of about twenty-five was seen in Squaw Canyon on December 24. No Clark Nutcrackers were seen on the trip.

Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*).—Common in Squaw Canyon and along the creek. Seen every day we were there. A typical adult male was collected in Squaw Canyon on December 23.

Rocky Mountain White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis nelsoni*).—An adult male collected in Squaw Canyon on December 22, the only one seen.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*).—Two seen in Squaw Canyon on December 22. An adult male was collected at the same place on December 24.

Rocky Mountain Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris montana*).—First

heard and seen in Squaw Canyon on December 22, and heard on two subsequent occasions. Referred to this subspecies as it is known to be the wintering form in the Pine Ridge.

Eastern Robin (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*).—About ten seen along the Niobrara River in Brown County north of Ainsworth on December 30.

Eastern Common Bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*).—One seen and heard calling near Kilgore, Cherry County, on December 29.

Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*).—An adult male was collected in Squaw Canyon on December 22, and a bird of the same species was seen there on December 24.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis* subsp.).—One was seen near Butte, Boyd County, on December 21, another between Squaw Canyon and Kilgore on December 27, and one at Kilgore on December 29. None was collected, as these individuals were too shy to permit approach, so the subspecific identification is lacking. Probably, however, they were *L. b. invictus*.

Western Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi*).—About fifteen of these birds were noted along Squaw Creek on December 23, and an adult male and immature female were collected. About a dozen were noted at the same place on December 26, when another adult male was collected. The first two of these birds collected are quite typical *H. v. brooksi*, but the second male is somewhat intermediate between *H. v. brooksi* and *H. v. vespertina*. No Pine Grosbeaks were seen on the trip.

Common Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria linaria*).—One seen by Beed in Squaw Canyon on December 22.

Pale American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis pallidus*).—About fifty were seen along Squaw Creek in the valley, on December 23, and an immature female, seemingly referable to this form, was collected. Several were seen there on the following day also, and again on December 26. No crossbills whatever were seen on the trip.

White-winged Junco (*Junco aikenii*).—Noted at Harrison and Squaw Canyon, Sioux County. An immature individual was collected at Harrison on December 22, and an adult male in Squaw Canyon on the same date. About a dozen were seen in Squaw Canyon on December 24.

Eastern Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*).—A few were seen in a flock of Shufeldt Oregon Juncos near Johnstown, Brown County, on December 30.

Shufeldt Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus shufeldti*).—About fifteen in a flock, with a few of the preceding species, near Johnstown, Brown County, on December 30. One adult male was collected.

Pink-sided Junco (*Junco mearnsi*).—One adult (female?) collected in Squaw Canyon on December 24, and an adult male near Johnstown, Brown County, December 30.

Western Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea ochracea*).—Common along Squaw Creek in the valley, on December 23, 24 and 26. No specimens were collected. *S. a. ochracea* is of course the form found in winter in the Pine Ridge.

Common Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*).—These longspurs were common in Cherry County, in company with Saskatchewan Horned Larks, on December 21 and 30. Two adult males were collected near Wood Lake, Cherry County, on December 21, and another adult male and a female were collected at the same place on December 30. An immature male bird was collected in Squaw Canyon on December 22. All five of these specimens are closest to *C. l. lapponicus*, though distinctly paler than most eastern Nebraska specimens of that subspecies. The species was common along the roadside between Valentine, Cherry County, and Ainsworth, Brown County, on December 30. A flock of about 500 was seen in a field near Neligh, Antelope County, on December 31.—GEORGE E. HUDSON and WATSON E. BEED, *Dept. Zoology, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

The Executive Committee of the N. O. U. announces that our Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting and Thirty-second Annual Field Day will be held at Omaha on Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19, 1934. The Board of Trustees of the Society of Liberal Arts, in charge of the Joslyn Memorial, has graciously accorded to the N. O. U. the privilege of holding its meetings in that beautiful new building. President McKillip has appointed Mr. L. O. Horsky as Chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements, so our members may rest assured that all local plans will be most carefully made and conscientiously carried out. Every effort will be put forth to make this coming meeting a notable one. There will be the usual program, open to the public, on Friday afternoon and evening, and an exhibit worthy of the distinguished setting open all day Friday and Friday evening. This exhibit is planned to include a representation of the various devices for attracting birds to the home, books on birds, and original bird paintings and photographs. The usual Field Day will be held in the Fontenelle Reserve and elsewhere on Saturday, May 19. More detailed announcements of the meeting will be made in the April number of the *Review*.

A year ago the outstanding ornithological feature of the season was the invasion of the eastern half of Nebraska by Canadian Pine Grosbeaks. This past fall and the present winter have been marked by an eastward movement of Corvidae. American Magpies have been noted in various counties in central and even in southeastern Nebraska—Antelope, Merrick, Polk, Hall, Adams, Thayer, Jefferson, Saline and Lancaster—and Piñon Jays have worked eastward to the North Platte, O'Neill, Holdrege, Superior and Fairbury vicinities, while even the Clark Nutcracker has been seen as far east as Kearney and Superior.

If the winter of 1932-33 was set down as an "open" one, that of 1933-34 would have to be designated as a "very open" winter. As stated in the column in this issue entitled the 1933 Migration Season, this winter so far has been phenomenally dry and warm. There were some cold spells for just a day or a few days in December (24 to 28) and January (1 to 3, 25, 29 and 30), but for the months of November, December, January and the first half of February, as a whole, the mean temperatures were much above the normal. Last year we made an analysis of the Holiday bird censuses, and compiled from them a composite list of forty-seven species. This season the number in a similarly compiled list is just ten less. At Omaha and Lincoln the censuses of the present winter were better than a year ago; at Fremont and Fairbury they were almost the same in both seasons, while at Hastings the list this year was not quite half of the list a year ago. It is hard to account for this on any other basis than a lesser food supply, for the prevailing temperatures certainly have been encouraging for the birds to remain with us.

## THE 1933 MIGRATION SEASON

The fall and early winter season of 1933 was warmer than normal throughout, and mostly dry and bright. September was unusually warm and moderately wet. There have been only two Septembers since 1876 (1897 and 1931) that averaged warmer. The September mean temperature at Lincoln was 71.5° F., which is 5.1° above the normal mean temperature of that month. Eleven days had maximum temperatures of 90° F. or higher at Lincoln, and maxima of 100° or above occurred in all parts of the state. At Lincoln the first ten days of September all had maxima of 89° F. or higher, from 5° to 18° above the normal, following which was a heavy rain on the 11th, with a subsequent cool period from the 12th to the 15th, inclusive, with temperatures from 1° to 11° below the normal, and this in turn followed by warm weather again, only three days (the 20th and the 26th and 27th, following a rain on the 25th) of the last half of the month being below the normal. There was no general freeze in September, and the lowest recorded temperature anywhere in the state was 29° F. Along with the warm weather were good rains in most sections. At Lincoln there were rains of 2.44 and 1.39 inches, on the 12th and 25th, respectively, with light rains on the 2nd, 15th and 26th, making the rainfall of the month 4.81 inches, or 1.83 inches above the normal. While southern Nebraska in general received more than the usual amount of rain, in the northeastern section the rainfall was only slightly more than normal, while in the northwestern section it was only 76% of normal. September sunshine was everywhere above the normal.

October continued warm, and turned very dry and bright. The average temperature for the state was 53°, which was 1.9° above normal, the western half of the state averaging above normal and the southeastern section slightly below normal. The highest temperature for the state was 91°, recorded at two different stations respectively on the 4th and 14th. The October mean temperature at Lincoln was 53.8° F., which while .04° below the normal mean temperature of that month, was still quite warm. The mean maximum daily temperature at Lincoln was 66.2° F., which is .2° above the normal and on the 14th, 30th and 31st maxima of 80° or more obtained, these being from 13° to 23° above the normal. A general freeze occurred in the western half of the state on the 1st, and in most of the eastern half of the state on the 8th, but in a few places in southeastern Nebraska freezing did not occur until October 22. The average precipitation for the state was only .06 inch, making this October the driest on record, the previous record being .22 inch in 1895, and drier than any month on record except December, 1905, with .02 inch and November, 1914, with .01 inch. At Lincoln, the only rainfall for the entire month of October, the normal precipitation for which is 1.88 inches, was .09 inch, which fell on the 15th.

The warm, dry, bright weather continued through November, over the whole state. It was the warmest November in a decade, although all but two of the last ten Novembers have been warmer than normal. Maximum temperatures of 70° or above occurred in all parts of the state and in southeastern Nebraska reached 80° on one or two days. The November mean temperature at Lincoln was 43°, which is 3.9° above the normal, while the mean maximum daily temperature was 5° above the normal of 50°. November 1 registered a maximum of 80° F., while the maximum temperatures on the 10th to 13th, 18th to 20th, 25th and 27th were above 61° or higher, from 2° to 20° above the normal. Like October, the month was exceedingly dry. For the state as a whole, the average precipitation was only 40% of the normal, ranging from 31% in the central and western part of the state to 49% in the southwestern section. A quarter of an inch on November 2, with slight precipitation on November 1, 4, 5 and 23, to a total of .60 inch, which is .47 inch below the normal for the month, brought the accumulated deficiency of pre-

precipitation for 1933 at Lincoln to -2.31 inches. The sunshine for November was greater than normal.

December was the warmest in Nebraska for the last thirty-eight years. Only three Decembers in fifty-eight years of record, 1877, 1889 and 1896 were warmer. Temperatures ranged from 4° above normal in the northeastern section to over 8° above normal in the southwest. The warmest days during December were the 21st to 23rd, which at Lincoln registered 61°, 70° and 61° maximum, which were respectively 18°, 26°, and 22° above the normal, and these three very warm days were followed by the coldest weather of the month on December 24 to 28, inclusive, with minimum temperatures from -4° to 12°, which were from 3° to 23° below the normal. Minimum temperatures over the state as a whole ranged from zero to ten below, but in northeastern Nebraska three stations registered 17° below. At Lincoln the December mean temperature was 32.8°, which is 5.2° above the normal, while the mean maximum daily temperature was 43.2° or 8.1° above the normal. However, the excessive dryness of October and November was broken in December, when at Lincoln good rains fell on the 1st and 2nd, and slight precipitation occurred on the 25th and 26th, making a rainfall of 1.67 inches, which is .87 inch above the normal, and reducing the accumulated deficiency of precipitation for 1933 at Lincoln to -1.44 inches. For the state, the rainfall was 167% of normal, most of it falling on the first two days of the month. The remainder of the month was dry, except for an occasional light snow, especially on the 14th and 15th, and 25th and 26th. In the extreme northeastern part of the state some snow remained on the ground through the last half of the month.

Miss Mary Ellsworth, our Vice-President, spent the first two weeks in August of 1933 visiting at Alliance, Box Butte County. She reports that at a small lake called Bronco Lake, about three miles from town, she saw about 100 American Eared Grebes, in pairs, the males diving for food and feeding the females; a Western Willet, several Pectoral Sandpipers, several Semipalmated Sandpipers and an Avocet; and about seventy-five American Black Terns. At another lake farther away she saw three (Eastern?) Great Blue Herons, numerous ducks and three Avocets. Along the roadsides she noted hundreds of Saskatchewan Horned Larks, Lark Buntings and Western Lark Sparrows. Near Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, she noted the Northern Violet-green Swallow and Common Rock Wren.

Under date of November 1, Mrs. Glen Chapman of Aurora writes that on August 28 two female (or immature male) Ruby-throated Hummingbirds appeared at the salvia blossoms in her neighbor's yard, and were seen there each day up to and including September 3. One hummingbird was seen on September 11, 14, 15, and 17, at the same place, by Mrs. Chapman, and one was seen again on October 3 and 6, just before the coming of the frost that killed the salvia. On September 3, Mrs. Chapman noted a Wilson Pileolated Warbler in an ash tree in her yard, and on September 26 two female Western Blue Grosbeaks were noted eating berries from the matrimony vines in a neighbor's (Mrs. Nothomb's) yard. On October 22, Mrs. Chapman saw a Tufted Titmouse in a wooded spot along the Big Blue River south of Aurora, this being the first record of this species in the Aurora vicinity, and extending its known distribution in Nebraska considerably to the northwest. On October 28, at a little pioneer cemetery on the Blue River south of Aurora, Mrs. Chapman had the thrill of seeing a Townsend Solitaire, where it stayed all afternoon among the junipers and pines of the cemetery, occasionally flying out, after the manner of a flycatcher, to catch insects from the air. Other birds noted in this cemetery on the same day were the Eastern Screech Owl, Long-eared Owl, Eastern Hairy Wood-

pecker, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Brown Creeper, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Cardinal, Eastern American Goldfinch, Harris Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Tree Sparrow (subsp.?), Eastern Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow (subsp.?).

Under dates of November 6 and 12, Mrs. Lulu Kortz Hudson of the "Bow and Arrow Ranch", near Simeon, Nebraska, reports that on October 8 she and Mr. Hudson noted some large birds on their lake, from their sitting room windows. Getting into the car and driving down to the lake, and walking over onto what formerly was an island in the lake, with the field glasses they observed two pure white adult and two immature swans, the immature birds being plainly washed with gray. The swans swam leisurely about, not disturbed by the nearness of the Hudsons, and finally swam quietly away to the northwestern shore of the lake. On each of the next seven days these birds were observed; then one of the hired men went duck hunting on the lake and the swans promptly left when the guns were fired, even though the hunters were on another part of the lake. Eleven days later, on October 19, the Hudsons saw four swans again, but all of these were pure white adults and obviously not the same birds that they had seen on October 8 to 14. Like the others, they were unafraid when they were approached quite closely by the automobile. They stayed until October 23, when they flew away following some shooting on the lake again. Mr. and Mrs. Hudson did not see the swans in flight. These are the first swans that the Hudsons have noted on their lake during the past twenty-five years, though Mr. Hudson, who has lived on the place for the last fifty years, says that formerly large flocks of swans visited the lake in the spring migration, and smaller numbers in the fall. About twenty-five years ago Mrs. Hudson saw a pair of swans on the lake in the fall. The Hudsons were not able to determine whether these swans were the Whistling Swan or the Trumpeter Swan, though quite possibly the latter. At the same time that the swans were on the lake there were also flocks of Canada Geese and Common Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Lesser Scaup and Northern Ruddy Ducks, as well as Northern American Coots. On November 5, Mrs. Hudson reports that they caught a Northern Ruddy Duck alive. Under date of February 14, she reported that while the lake did not yet show open water, several flocks of the American Golden-eye had visited the marsh on their place in migration this winter.

Mr. Wilson Tout of North Platte reports under date of November 20 that about November 6 a flock of Piñon Jays put in an appearance in that town, and have since been reported by a number of people as seen in various parts of the town, as well as in the surrounding countryside. He further reports that a flock of Mountain Bluebirds had recently been seen at the State Experiment Substation near North Platte, where they previously were noted during early March of 1933 (*antea*, i, p. 49). Mr. Tout was informed of the presence of the birds at the Substation by Mr. L. L. Zook, Agronomist at the Substation, and, with Mrs. Tout, he went out and saw them. Later Mrs. Tout saw Mountain Bluebirds near Bignell, Lincoln County, about twenty miles southeast of North Platte and also along the river, and several other North Platte residents have reported seeing flocks of Bluebirds recently, which Mr. Tout judged were either the same flock, or at least Mountain Bluebirds, since the Eastern Common Bluebird is not known to occur in the North Platte vicinity during the late fall and winter.

Under dates of November 8 and 30, Mr. A. M. Brooking of Hastings reports that he had received a specimen of the Northwestern Great

Horned Owl (*B. v. lagophonus*) that was shot four miles west and three miles south of Ayr, Adams County, by Mr. William Gingrich, on October 29, 1933, and also a Western Great Horned Owl (*B. v. occidentalis*) that was shot in Custer County in the vicinity of Broken Bow, on November 3, and sent to him. Both these specimens were preserved, and the identification of the former carefully checked by both Mr. Brooking and M. H. Swenk. On November 2, an immature Bald Eagle was shot near Glenvil, Clay County, and was brought to Mr. Brooking by Mr. Ray Ebert of Hastings, for whom Mr. Brooking mounted the bird. On November 5, Mr. George Maxwell, of Hastings, shot an immature male White-winged Scoter on the Platte River in Hall County, somewhere between Wood River and Grand Island, and this specimen was mounted by Mr. Brooking for his collection. On the same day, Mr. Lester Nunemaker, of Hastings, shot three male American Golden-eyes on the Platte River south of Wood River, one of which was brought to Mr. Brooking for mounting. Several male American Buff-breasted Mergansers were shot on the Platte River in Hall County on November 9 by Mr. G. A. Huffer, of Hastings, one of which was mounted for him by Mr. Brooking, who mentions that he has had other reports of that bird this fall and that there seems to have been something of a flight of them. Mr. Brooking also mentions that he has received several reports of American Magpies having been seen along the Platte River in Hall County during November. Furthermore, one was shot by Mr. George Tilden, of Hastings, on November 26, a little west of Hastings, and mounted by Mr. Brooking, while a flock was reported to him by Mr. Junior Brooks, of Angus, as present on a ranch one mile north and one mile west of Hebron, Thayer County, on November 21. Mr. Brooking says that American Magpies have nested for the last two or three years, at least, around Elwood, Gosper County, that two nests were reported by a farm owner in the same county, between Smithfield and Bertrand, as being located on his farm, while these birds have also been reported as nesting around Oxford, in Harlan County.

Under date of November 12, Miss Mary Ellsworth reports that on November 11, at Carter Lake near Omaha, she noted about forty Common Pied-billed Grebes, a White Pelican standing on a pile of reeds, two American Pintails, twelve Blue-winged Teals, two Shovellers, four Red-heads, forty or fifty Lesser Scaups, about a hundred Northern American Coots, a Northern Killdeer, a Black-bellied Plover in the winter plumage, a Ring-billed Gull in the immature plumage, several other unidentified gulls, fifteen Red-winged Blackbirds, fifty Bronzed Grackles and a large flock of Tree Sparrows. She returned to Carter Lake on November 12, and again saw the White Pelican, at exactly the same place, and saw also a Wilson Snipe. Later it developed that the White Pelican was a wounded bird, unable to fly. It was finally killed by the Humane Society, to prevent its death by starvation, according to a letter dated December 10, received from Miss Emma Ellsworth. On November 26, Miss Ellsworth saw thirty Lesser Snow Geese and a number of unidentified ducks at Carter Lake. Under date of January 6, Mr. L. O. Horsky comments upon the absence of the American Golden-eye along the Missouri River this winter, which species of duck has been observed on the river at the Fontenelle Reserve for several successive winters past, and also upon the absence of the Long-eared Owls from Elmwood Park this winter. Mr. Horsky observed Red Crossbills in Elmwood Park on December 3, but they have not subsequently been seen, and are absent from the Holiday bird censuses taken in the Omaha area this year. Mr. Horsky also comments on the absence of the Red-headed Woodpeckers from Spring Lake, Riverview and Hanscom Parks this winter, where they were numerous the past two winters. Two were seen, however, in Forest Lawn Cemetery, as recorded in the census taken on January 1. Two Eastern Robins were common visitors to the bird baths of Mrs. J. Franklin Holly, 5062 Leavenworth Street, up to December 15. Mr.

Horsky further reports, on January 6, that during the period between December 15 and January 1, two Eastern Sparrow Hawks were seen on the grounds of Mr. F. J. Jodeit, 69th and Grover Streets; Eastern Screech Owls were observed by Mr. Horsky near his home at 5952 Franklin Street and by Dr. C. A. Mitchell near his home at 2565 Crown Point Avenue, and in and near Miller Park; a Red-bellied Woodpecker was observed by Dr. Mitchell at Bellevue; and fifteen Tree Sparrows were observed by Mr. Horsky himself, near his home.

Under date of December 1, Mr. Cyrus A. Black of Kearney reports that he had just returned from the second of two hunting trips to the North Platte River in Garden County, north of Oshkosh, taken November 26 to 28, 1933, inclusive, and that he found a great concentration of ducks there. He writes: "I believe that I never in my life saw so many ducks as I saw on our last trip. While of course I realize that they are all bunched in Garden County, nevertheless I never saw anything like it before. They are uncountable. They fly up off the Garden County Reserve in swarms that are miles long and look like smoke. Last week while I was there a man was taking moving pictures of these flights." Under date of December 30, Mr. Black further writes that Greater Yellow-legs were quite numerous along the North Platte River in Garden County in October, and that while hunting ducks and geese in the same locality, on the November dates mentioned, he found the Wilson Snipe very numerous. On the Reserve he saw eagles, both the Golden Eagle and the Bald Eagle, chasing ducks and geese. The Reserve, he says, seemed to be a fine hunting ground for them, and they could be seen there almost any time. Mr. Black reports also that recently he received for mounting an albino Eastern Crow with the entire plumage snowy white.

On December 2, 1933, the University of Nebraska Museum received a fine specimen of Bald Eagle, in the fully adult plumage (with pure white head and neck, and tail), apparently shot but a day or two previously, from Mr. Cecil McCullough, Box 285, Bassett, Rock County, Nebraska. This specimen had a wing measuring 581 mm. and the chord of its culmen measured 56 mm., indicating a bird of about the maximum size for the Southern Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*), and almost large enough to be referred to the Northern Bald Eagle (*H. l. alascanus*), which, however, typically has a wing 600 mm. long or over, and a culmen around 63 mm. long or over. Like many other Nebraska Bald Eagles taken in winter, this one must be regarded as more or less intermediate between the two subspecies. The specimen is being preserved in the University collection.

Under date of December 3, Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior writes that she recently had learned that about November 1 four Superior boys shot a swan on the Republican River west of that town. It seems that these four boys were hunting, and saw a lone large white bird fly down on the river. They thought it was a goose, and between them shot at it seven times before they killed it. After they had killed and retrieved the bird, they saw that it was not a goose at all, so they brought it to an experienced hunter for identification. This hunter correctly told them that the bird that had been shot was an immature swan, and that there was a heavy penalty for shooting swans. The boys were frightened, and promptly got rid of the bird by burying it. When Mrs. Johnston learned of the occurrence and where the bird was buried, some time later, she had it dug up and took measurements of the wing spread and length, bill proportions, tarsus and middle toe. She noted also that its plumage was washed with brownish gray, and the ends of the wing feathers were a pale soft gray. The bill was black with "quite a bit of salmon color" and the tarsi and feet were blackish. From the plumage description and measurements thus secured, it is evident that the bird was an immature Whistling Swan in its second year plumage, presenting



rather maximum measurements for the tarsus and middle toe, but with the general size and bill proportions of the Whistling Swan. Mrs. Johnston raises the question as to what the boys might better have done in this case. Mr. F. B. O'Connell, Secretary of the Nebraska Game, Forestation, and Parks Commission, states that if any one, unintentionally and through ignorance of its true identity, shoots a bird protected by law in the belief that it is a game bird, in the open season for that kind of game bird, if the circumstances are promptly reported to him and the bird held subject to his orders, the person making the mistake is protected from state penalty. Such birds are usually ordered turned over to the nearest game warden, or to the Commission directly, and such disposal is made of the same as best to conserve any scientific value that the specimen may have.

Under dates of December 8 and 17, Mrs. J. R. Swain of Greeley, Greeley County, reports that on November 30, 1933, her renter, Mr. Edward Ryan, shot a large Golden Eagle on his place near Greeley. Mr. Ryan reports to Mrs. Swain that he shot the bird while it was sitting quietly on a fence post. He brought the dead eagle in for Mrs. Swain to see, and to say what should be done with it. It was decided to have the bird mounted, and to place it in the Court House. It had a wing spread of eight feet and weighed twelve pounds. Mrs. Swain writes concerning it: "It was a splendid specimen of the Golden Eagle, the first I had ever seen, and it seemed a pity that it had to be killed." As an excellent example of how popular prejudice is unjustly developed against the Golden Eagle, and our other birds of prey, witness the following account of the killing of this bird, as it was published in the Greeley *Citizen* for December 7, 1933, under the captions "A Huge Eagle Attacks Barry. A Monster Bird Rips Off Coat, Shirt Sleeves": "A huge eagle made a savage attack on Tom Barry at the Edward Ryan home Thanksgiving evening. The monster eagle was discovered in a hog lot at the Ryan home. The bird of prey was engaged in a battle with a brood sow which was attempting to defend her brood of suckling pigs. Ryan and Barry ran to the hog lot. The former carried a gun. When Barry arrived on the outside of a woven wire fence, the eagle rose from the ground and made a dash at Barry. The latter ducked behind the fence and threw up his right arm. The eagle caught his coat sleeve in its talons and ripped off not only the coat sleeve but that of his shirt as well. Barry's arm was scratched. Ryan shot the bird after the attack on Barry. It had almost a 12-foot wing spread. It stood about three feet in height and weighed fourteen pounds. The ears of the brood sow were riddled by the sharp talons of the eagle. The eagle probably will be mounted. It is of the golden species."

Under date of December 22, Misses Agness and Susie Callaway of Fairbury report on some bird records made at that place the past fall. They saw the first Eastern Brown Creeper on October 9. Mrs. C. B. Callaway saw a Pifion Jay on October 29. The Misses Callaway first noted a flock of twenty or thirty Rusty Blackbirds on November 6, this flock remaining about for a week or more, during which time they trapped and banded three of them. Mrs. R. L. Gray saw an American Magpie on November 23. Mrs. Charles Richardson saw an Eastern Belted Kingfisher on December 20. Under date of January 9, the Misses Callaway further report that Mrs. Richardson has four Tufted Titmice and the same number of Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees as regular visitors at her feeding station, in addition to one pair each of the Eastern Hairy Woodpecker and Northern Downy Woodpecker. The Misses Callaway have the same kinds of birds visiting their feeding station also, except that they do not have the Tufted Titmice. Since January 1 they have noted also the Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Eastern Bob-white, Eastern Crow, Cedar Waxwing (large flock), Eastern

Cardinal, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow and Harris Sparrow. They banded nine of the Eastern Bob-whites, and had one return from last year. Other birds noted by the Misses Callaway during January and early February include the Common Pintail, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, and Eastern Common Bluebird. They saw the first Eastern Robin on February 4, and on February 9 banded a Brown Thrasher with No. 278847.

Under date of January 4, Mrs. George L. Day of Superior writes that on or about October 15, at dusk, they had a flock of Harris Sparrows in the thicket near their house, and with them were several each of the Arctic Spotted Towhees and Eastern Cardinals. Miss Marian Day, her daughter, saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on October 20, while in November she saw a Townsend Solitaire. Two Golden Eagles were seen in November. A Brown Thrasher was seen on November 21, and on the date of her writing, January 4, a Northern Blue Jay and an Eastern Robin were present in the yard. The suet basket in the yard was being visited daily by Eastern Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Downy Woodpeckers and Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees, some of the latter being there most of the time, while the Eastern Cardinals were visiting the feeding table and bird bath every day. Mrs. Day comments on the large number of hawks that they have found shot in the Superior vicinity this fall and winter.

Under date of January 7, Mrs. A. H. Jones of Hastings continues the 1933 migration record at that place from where it ended in the last report (*antea*, i, p. 140). Eastern Common Bluebirds were noted on October 13, a flock of ten, by Mesdames J. D. Fuller, A. H. Jones, A. M. Jones, A. E. Olsen and J. Roelse, while Mrs. E. R. Maunder saw a flock of them on the late date of November 11. The group just mentioned noted a Great Blue Heron also on October 13. On October 14, Mrs. A. M. Brooking noted the first Harris Sparrows of the season. Mrs. A. M. Jones saw two Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets on October 15, on which same date Mrs. A. H. Jones saw two American Magpies and flocks of Eastern Cowbirds along the Platte River north of Hastings. On October 20, a field party of the Brooking Bird Club noted the Marsh Hawk, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees, Eastern Brown Creeper, two Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets, flocks of Western Meadowlarks, Eastern American Goldfinches, Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow (subsp.), Harris Sparrow, several White-throated Sparrows and Song Sparrow (subsp.). Mrs. Dwight Thomas noted Red-winged Blackbirds on October 29. On October 30, Mrs. A. M. Jones saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch in her yard, and the same or another individual of this species was noted by Mrs. A. H. Jones in her yard on November 7. Miss Margaret Diemer noted one in the woods along the Platte River north of Hastings on November 5. Mrs. C. A. Heartwell saw six Eastern Brown Creepers in her yard on November 20. On December 11 a Bronzed Grackle was noted in her yard by Mrs. A. M. Brooking, and was repeatedly seen subsequently during the month. A Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker was observed on December 15 by Miss M. Caryle Sylla, a Redhead on the Platte River north of Hastings on December 17 by Mrs. A. H. Jones, and a dozen American Rough-legged Hawks on December 25 by Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Brooking. Mrs. A. E. Olsen saw the Shufeldt Oregon Junco on January 3, and Mrs. C. A. Heartwell noted an Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch on January 6. Mrs. Harold Erickson reports that a flock of Piñon Jays appeared at Holdrege, Phelps County, about December 25, and were still there at the time of writing (January 7). However, none have been seen at Hastings so far this winter.

Under date of January 14, Miss Louisa Wilson of Lincoln reports that on September 10, and for several days subsequently, she noted several

male individuals of the Wilson Pileolated Warbler and American Redstart at her home at 3103 South 35th Street. Also on September 10 she noted a male Eastern Purple Finch, which showed considerable of the pinkish color on the head and breast. She thought she saw it or another one again on September 12, but was not entirely sure of the identification in the second case. This species is a decidedly uncommon one at Lincoln. As stated in the last number of the *Review* (1, p. 139), a Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared in a large pine tree in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Swenk on October 14. It was seen at intervals afterward, during October, and on November 1 a second one appeared in company with it. Both birds of this pair (a male and a female) have since been constantly present on or about the Swenk premises, up to January 22 for the male and February 4 for the female. They were constant visitors at the suet, along with several Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees and a pair each of the Eastern Hairy Woodpecker and Northern Downy Woodpecker. A pair of Northern Blue Jays are also almost daily visitors. Eastern Slate-colored Juncos appeared in a small flock on October 21 and have remained since. A male Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker which first appeared at the suet on November 17 was seen almost every day until December 27. On November 21, a Townsend Solitaire appeared in the back yard of the Swenk home, and remained there for several minutes, affording an excellent identification before it flew away to the north. On December 17, two Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets and two Eastern American Goldfinches made their first visit, and the former have since been seen nearly every day, the latter species even more numerous. A pair of Eastern Cardinals have also been daily visitors, seeking sunflower seeds at the Swenks' feeding board. Under date of February 18, Miss Wilson further reports that on January 17 there were two Northern Pine Siskins at her home, and that on January 21 she saw two or three Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Salt Creek woods near the Penitentiary. At Nebraska City, on February 7 she saw the Eastern Common Bluebird and Red-bellied Woodpecker, both of which were reported to her as having wintered there, along with many Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches, Eastern Brown Creepers, and Eastern Cardinals. She saw Harris Sparrows, and heard them singing, at Lincoln on February 13, and saw and heard Western Meadowlarks on February 15. A Bronzed Grackle remained in her neighborhood all winter, and an Eastern Robin was seen there about Christmas time and again in mid-February. Other wintering birds noted by her were Northern Blue Jays, Eastern Slate-colored Juncos and Tree Sparrows.

Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon saw an immature male Pine Grosbeak, with pronounced yellowish-red on the crown and rump, at the water in the bird bath in her yard at 1319 South 23rd Street, Lincoln, on November 15. This bird has been seen on several occasions subsequently, according to Mr. Sheldon. This is the only record of the noting of this species in the Lincoln vicinity during the present winter. On November 20, Mrs. George O. Smith saw an American Magpie between Raymond and Malcolm, in northern Lancaster County.

On November 5, Messrs. G. E. Hudson and W. E. Beed made a one day trip to Rock Bluff, in Cass County, and noted ten species of birds, *viz.*, an adult male Marsh Hawk (collected), an immature male Common Red-shafted Flicker (also collected), several Northern Blue Jays, about fifteen Eastern Robins, several Eastern Common Bluebirds, about forty Cedar Waxwings (a female collected), one Bronzed Grackle, and numerous Eastern American Goldfinches, Tree Sparrows and Harris Sparrows. A freshly shot male Short-eared Owl was brought to Mr. Hudson at the Zoology Department of the University on December 2. Miss Louisa Wilson says a pale gray-colored Eastern Screech Owl has been a visitor to a cedar tree in her yard during the month of December. Other bird

visitors at her home during December have been the Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Northern Blue Jay, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Cardinal, Eastern Slate-colored Junco and Shufeldt Oregon Junco.

Under date of January 20, Miss Mollie Taylor of Battle Creek, Madison County, states that the omission of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in her bird list for the Battle Creek vicinity for the period April 1 to June 10, 1933 (*antea*, i, pp. 84-85) was an oversight. She says they had many of these birds all summer long, and that they hopped among the potato vines helping themselves to the "potato bugs", to which they were welcome, and often visited the bird bath. As late as last November an Eastern Robin was a visitor at the bird bath. A Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker visited her place in January, and two or three Northern Blue Jays have been eating and drinking at her home throughout the winter to date. Other regular visitors have been the Northern Downy Woodpecker, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee and Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch. During the early part of the winter an Eastern Screech Owl was present, roosting on the bracket underneath the eaves on the shady north side of the house, but had not been seen for a few days prior to January 20. Miss Taylor encloses some clippings from the Norfolk *Daily News* for November 11 and 18, 1933, which tell that on December 1, 1910, a flock of Piñon Jays appeared for a time at Plainview, Pierce County, and that during the fall of 1930 and winter of 1930-31 a flock of about forty of them wintered among the jack pines in the cemetery north of that town. Also that a flock of about one hundred Piñon Jays spent the winter of 1931-32 in the vicinity of O'Neill, Holt County, only to leave in the spring, and that this fall about November 11 a flock of these birds again appeared in that vicinity. The press story comments: "They drift about in flocks, chattering in musically whistled notes. On dark days one may approach them within a few feet but on bright ones they are very shy."

#### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY CENSUSES

**Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.**—December 16, 2:00 P. M. to 4:00 P. M. (Mr. Horsky), and December 23, 3:00 P. M. to 4:30 P. M. (Misses Ellsworth), from northwest entrance to Fontenelle Forest Reserve to Burlington tracks, and along the tracks south through the Reserve. Red-tailed? Hawk, 1; Eastern Sparrow Hawk, 2; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 6; Northern Blue Jay, 4; Eastern Crow, 15; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 20; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Eastern Common Bluebird, 6; Eastern Cardinal, 2; Eastern American Goldfinch, 6; and Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 50. Total, 14 species, 130 individuals.—L. O. HORSKY and MISSES EMMA and MARY ELLSWORTH.

**Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.**—December 23; 2:00 P. M. to 3:00 P. M. in Spring Lake Park, 3:00 P. M. to 4:30 P. M. in Riverview Park. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker (2 in Spring Lake, 2 in Riverview); Northern Downy Woodpecker (2 in Spring Lake, 4 in Riverview); Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee (8 in Spring Lake, 15 in Riverview); Tufted Titmouse (1 in Riverview); Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch (4 in Spring Lake, 6 in Riverview); and Eastern Slate-colored Junco (15 in Riverview). Total, 6 species, 59 individuals.—L. O. HORSKY.

**Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.**—December 24; 1:00 P. M. to 2:00 P. M. in Hanscom Park. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 4; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Eastern Brown Creeper, 2; and Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 12. Total, 6 species, 34 individuals.—L. O. HORSKY.

**Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.**—December 31, 1:00 P. M. to 3:30 P. M. (Misses Ellsworth and Swanson and Mr. Horsky), and January 1 (Mrs. Holly), in Elmwood Park. Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 4; Eastern Crow, 10; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Eastern Brown Creeper, 2; Eastern Cardinal, 6; Northern Pine Siskin, 1; Eastern American Goldfinch, 2; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 25. Total, 13 species, 89 individuals.—MISSSES MARY ELLSWORTH and EFFIE SWANSON, MRS. J. FRANKLYN HOLLY and MR. L. O. HORSKY.

**Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.**—January 1, 1:00 P. M. to 3:30 P. M. in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 1; Northern Blue Jay, 10; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 15; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Eastern Brown Creeper, 8; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Eastern Cardinal, 1; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 15; and Harris Sparrow, 12. Total, 12 species, 81 individuals.—MISSSES MARJORIE DISBROW, MARY ELLSWORTH and EFFIE SWANSON.

**Homer, Dakota County, Nebraska.**—January 7, in northeastern Dakota County; snowing and quite cold. American Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3; Common Red-shafted Flicker, 1; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 15; Eastern Crow, 2; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Eastern Cardinal, 25; Eastern American Goldfinch, 6; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 40; Tree Sparrow, 20; and Harris Sparrow, 1. Total, 13 species, 128 individuals. Owing to the coldness of the weather I did not get into the places where I would have been likely to find the Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers. The Harris Sparrow record is my first one for this locality in January; previously, however, I have noted it in December.—WM. YOUNGWORTH.

**Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska.**—December 23; 8:00 A. M. to 12:00 M. and 1:30 P. M. to 4:00 P. M.; clear, temperature 42° at start, up to 58° at close. Cemetery, MacLean's Island, Hormel's Island and country roads. Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Eastern Screech Owl, 1; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 12; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 16; Northern Blue Jay, 1; Eastern Crow, 90; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 45; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 25; Eastern Brown Creeper, 15; Eastern Robin, 36; Eastern Common Bluebird, 30; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Cedar Waxwing, 25; Western Meadowlark, 1; Eastern Cardinal, 14 (8 males and 6 females); Northern Pine Siskin, 8; Eastern American Goldfinch, 40; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 50; Harris Sparrow, 8; and Tree Sparrow, 75. Total, 22 species, 512 individuals.—MRS. LILY RUEGG BUTTON.

**David City, Butler County, Nebraska.**—January 6; three hours spent along the Platte River near Schuyler and in the wooded ravines toward David City. Marsh Hawk, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Common Red-shafted Flicker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker (seen in town), Eastern Crow (flocks of thousands of birds), Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Brown Creeper (the last three species were seen in town before start of trip), Eastern Slate-colored Junco, and Tree Sparrow. Total, 12 species. During the next few days following the census Common Mallards have been seen along the Platte River. One of our members, Mrs. Ross, had a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches about her home for about a month prior to December 21, when they left, and others were seen in town.—THREE MEMBERS OF THE DAVID CITY NATURE STUDY CLUB.

**Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.**—December 25, 1933; all day. In back yard, around feeding station, and in Wyuka Cemetery; mostly cloudy, slight north wind, cold (temperature around 12° all day), ground partly covered with a slight snow. Eastern Pigeon Hawk, 1 (in Wyuka); Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1 (male); Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 2 (male and female); Northern Downy Woodpecker 2 (male and female); Eastern Crow, 1; Northern Blue Jay, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 (male and female); Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Eastern Cardinal, 2 (male and female); Eastern American Goldfinch, 2; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 3 (two males, one female); Harris Sparrow, 2; and Tree Sparrow, 6. Total, 14 species, 31 individuals.—MYRON H. and JANE B. SWENK.

**Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.**—January 21. Along Salt Creek south of Lincoln. Ring-necked Common Pheasant, 4 (all in a tree); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Northern Downy Woodpecker, several; Eastern Crow, about 20; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, common; Tufted Titmouse, several; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, several; Eastern Brown Creeper, about 6; Western (?) Meadowlark, several; Eastern Cardinal, about 8; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, several; Tree Sparrow, abundant; and Harris Sparrow, about 12. Total, 13 species.—GEORGE E. HUDSON and WATSON E. BEED.

**Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska.**—December 22; 9:30 A. M. to 3:00 P. M.; clear, very light westerly wind, temperature 42° to 64°. Observers in two groups, Miss Callaway and Mrs. Richardson on prairie land, along the thickets bordering the Little Blue River, and through the timber at Crystal Springs Park (a walk of six miles altogether), and Mrs. Bogardus and Miss Holly by auto six miles to Bowers' on Rose Creek and return, and four miles on foot along Rose Creek. Cooper Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3; Common Red-shafted Flicker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 32; Prairie Horned Lark, 20; Eastern Crow, 31; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 80; Tufted Titmouse, 15; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 11; Eastern Carolina Wren, 1; Eastern Common Bluebird, 8; Eastern Cardinal, 10; Eastern American Goldfinch, 3; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 37; Harris Sparrow, 75; and Tree Sparrow, 325. Total, 20 species, 670 individuals.—MRS. C. M. BOGARDUS, MISS SUSIE CALLAWAY, MISS BERTHA HOLLY, and MRS. CHARLES RICHARDSON.

**Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska.**—December 26; 2:00 P. M. to 4:00 P. M. Crystal Lake and vicinity. Marsh Hawk; Red-bellied Woodpecker (one, or probably two, males, the second observation being made some distance from the first); Eastern Hairy Woodpecker; Northern Downy Woodpecker; (Saskatchewan ?) Horned Lark; Eastern Crow; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee; Eastern Cardinal; Eastern American Goldfinch; Eastern Slate-colored Junco; Tree Sparrow; and Harris Sparrow. Total, 12 species. Also, on December 26, Mrs. C. A. Heartwell saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker in her yard in town. These are the first winter records of this species for the Hastings vicinity.—MRS. A. M. BROOKING, MRS. J. D. FULLER, MRS. A. H. JONES, MRS. A. E. OLSEN, and MISS M. CARYLE SYLLA.

**Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska.**—January 1; same territory as on December 26. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker; Northern Downy Woodpecker; (Saskatchewan ?) Horned Lark; Eastern Crow; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee; Bronzed Grackle (one); Eastern Cardinal; Eastern Slate-colored Junco; and Tree Sparrow. Total, 9 species.—MR. and MRS. ADISON A. ADAMS, MRS. A. M. BROOKING, MRS. J. D. FULLER, MRS. A. H. JONES, and MISS M. CARYLE SYLLA.

## HERE AND THERE WITH THE N. O. U. MEMBERS

The Brooking Bird Club of Hastings has completed its program for the year 1933-34. Seven of its eight meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of each month—October 16, November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19 and April 16, with the Annual Field Day and Business Meeting in May. The program this year in part consists, as heretofore, of treatments of bird groups by various members—the Bobolink and Cowbird by Miss Martha Cousley, the orioles by Miss Carrie Hansen, and the blackbirds and Bronzed Grackle by Mrs. Dwight Thomas, on October 16, and the swallows by Mrs. Charles K. Hart on April 16; but in addition there are planned brief reviews of the current numbers of *Bird-Lore*, *Nature Magazine*, etc., on each of the seven stated program meetings, and, what is more or less of an innovation, brief accounts by various members of the lives of the ornithologists Wilson, Audubon, Harris, Swainson, Cooper, Baird and Chapman at the November 20, January 15 and February 19 meetings. Other features planned for are accounts on African migratory birds, on December 18, by Mrs. A. M. Brooking; on bird enemies, by Miss M. Caryle Sylla, on January 15; on curious bird nests, by Mrs. A. H. Jones, on February 19; on the Whooping Crane, by Mr. A. M. Brooking, on March 19; and on wild birds as pets, by Mrs. Mahony, on April 16.

Mrs. Lily Ruegg Button of Fremont visited with her sister in Portland, Oregon, from September 24 to October 31, during which period she renewed her acquaintance with some of the birds of the Portland region. While there, she gave a talk on "Nebraska Birds" before the Oregon Audubon Society at one of its meetings, and presented the greetings of the N. O. U. to that organization. In this talk she gave the songs of several Nebraska birds in musical notation, and also played a group of bird numbers. She joined a bird trip of the Audubon Society while there, and reports that she had a most wonderful time, even though the birds were scarce at that time of the year. She learned the song of the Winter Wren on this trip, and afterward found the bird right at her sister's home. She also heard the notes of the Varied Thrush. Upon her return to Nebraska, she prepared an article upon the birds seen, for the Fremont newspaper, entitled "Bird Cousins of the Western Part of the Country", in which she compares some common Nebraska birds with their closest western relatives.

Nebraska, its University, and the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union all have just reason to feel gratified at the recognition that recently has come to two of its men who have entered the field of professional scientific ornithology. At the recent Semi-centennial Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in New York City, November 13 to 16, 1933, the single vacancy in the list of Fellows of that organization was filled by the election of Mr. John T. Zimmer, now Associate Curator of Birds of the Western Hemisphere in the American Museum of Natural History at New York. Mr. Zimmer grew up at Lincoln, and earned two degrees at the University of Nebraska, in 1910 and 1911, where he majored in entomology but developed an even greater interest in ornithology. He joined the N. O. U. in 1907, and served as our Secretary-Treasurer in 1912-13 and 1913-14. At our twenty-fifth annual meeting, on May 9, 1924, he was elected to honorary membership in the N. O. U., following noteworthy work by him on Philippine and Papuan birds. Before his association with the American Museum, for several years he was in the ornithology department at the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, and made bird collecting expeditions to South America and Africa. The number of A. O. U. Fellows is strictly limited to fifty, and election to this body is generally regarded as the highest recognition that can come to a professional ornithologist in this country. At this

same meeting, Mr. Melbourn A. Carriker, Jr., now of Beachwood, New Jersey, but at present on his fourth expedition to Peru for the purpose of collecting and studying the birds of that country, was elected a Member of the A. O. U. This membership group is second only to the Fellows, and likewise a recognition of meritorious work done. Mr. Carriker grew up at Nebraska City, where he was active in the 1890's, and became a charter member of the N. O. U. in 1900, resigning when he removed to Puntarenas, Costa Rica, in 1903, after having visited the country in the spring of 1902 with Professor Lawrence Bruner of the University of Nebraska. Field work with the birds of Costa Rica done in 1902 to 1907 gave the basis for his monumental 915-page work on the birds of Costa Rica, published by the Carnegie Museum in 1910, which, with his field work and other publications on ornithology is the basis of the recognition above mentioned.

Mr. Fred M. Dille, our N. O. U. member who for many years after its establishment in 1912 was in charge of the Niobrara Bird and Big Game Reservation maintained by the Federal Government near Valentine, in Cherry County, but who now resides at Rapid City, South Dakota, is at present at Phoenix, Arizona, studying the birds of the Arizona Desert. In a few weeks he plans to locate farther south, in the vicinity of Tucson, for the purpose of observing and collecting birds in that region until next May. In a letter dated January 13, written from Phoenix, he states that he has found the desert colorful and intriguing, with a set of birds quite unfamiliar to him. Although the Tucson region has been considerably worked by ornithologists in years past, it is safe to say that Mr. Dille will be able to add some things to the knowledge of the winter birds of that region during the next three or four months.

On February 22 to 24, inclusive, the Hastings Municipal Museum will reopen its exhibits to the public, after having been closed for several weeks for repairs under a C. W. A. grant. Not only has the entire building been completely renovated, but twenty-four cases of new exhibits have been installed. On these reopening days the Museum will be open all day, with special exercises in the afternoons. Congratulations are due the City of Hastings upon its progressiveness in sponsoring and supporting such a worthy institution as the Hastings Municipal Museum, which is rapidly becoming recognized as one of the important institutions of this sort in the West. Its director, Mr. A. M. Brooking, is particularly deserving of commendation for his untiring efforts to develop this institution, and make it useful not only to the citizens of Hastings but also to those of the entire state.

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#### IN MEMORIAM

Never before in the history of the N. O. U. has our organization within the short period of a quarter-year lost two of its past Presidents. Yet that has been our misfortune since the appearance of the last number of the *Review*, in the deaths of Frederick G. Collins and Robert H. Wolcott.

#### FREDERICK GEORGE COLLINS

Frederick George Collins, President of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union for the year 1930-31, and for the past ten years associated with Dr. E. H. Barbour as Assistant Curator of the University of Nebraska Museum, at Morrill Hall, died in Lincoln, after a brief illness, on the morning of November 13, 1933, at the age of sixty-seven years.

Mr. Collins was born and also lived most of his life at Exeter, England, where he was in business with his brother until he and Mrs. Collins followed their children to Lincoln, in 1921, their son Oliver having been



appointed as an instructor of mathematics in the University. Mr. Collins was educated at Oak House school at Axminster and at University College of the Southwest. He was governor and lecturer in the Albert Memorial Museum at Exeter, and a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society of London, having earned a position of authority, through his researches, on the geology of Devonshire. While still living at Exeter he founded the Exeter Field Club, an organization of amateurs interested in all branches of natural history, and headed this group for some years. After his removal to Lincoln he continued this enthusiastic interest in natural science, especially that of the amateur, and his weekly Museum Talks, broadcast from the University, made him widely known over the state. He was also in demand for lectures on popular science before Nebraska groups, and many members of the N. O. U. must well remember with pleasure his splendid talk on "Bird Names", given on the occasion of the thirty-second annual meeting of the N. O. U., as his address as retiring President, on May 15, 1931.

Though interested in all branches of natural science, Mr. Collins especially loved the birds, and was most enthusiastic in his work and plans in enlarging the collection of mounted birds on the basement floor of the University Museum, which collection he had rearranged in conformity with a modern classification. His never-failing cheerfulness and courtesy made friends of all who came into contact with him, and your editor recalls innumerable occasions when Mr. Collins quite obviously discommoded himself personally to be helpful in researches involving the examination of mounted material in the University collection. He will be much missed by all Lincoln bird lovers, among which group he was a leader, especially in the Bruner Nature Club during the years of its activity. Mr. Collins was buried on November 16, in Wyuka Cemetery, at Lincoln, and is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

#### ROBERT HENRY WOLCOTT

Robert Henry Wolcott was, throughout his life, a brilliant student of Nature in all of her forms, and in his mature years he became an authority in several branches of natural science; but always, it seemed, his earliest interests in the birds and insects dominated those that developed later. To him, and to Prof. Lawrence Bruner, probably more than to any other persons, the birth of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union is due. In 1899, Dr. Wolcott was completing his fourth year at the University of Nebraska, where he was holding the position of Adjunct Professor in the Department of Zoology. Their mutual interest in birds had brought him and Prof. Bruner into a pleasant friendship. Interest in birds had grown considerably in Nebraska since the establishment of the Department of Entomology and Ornithology, under the chairmanship of Prof. Bruner, in 1895, when regular instruction in ornithology and taxidermy began to be given at the University, followed as it was by the publication in 1896 of his *Some Notes on Nebraska Birds*. It was felt by both Prof. Bruner and Dr. Wolcott that the time was ripe for a state-wide ornithologists' organization, and Dr. Wolcott, with the successful organization of the Michigan Ornithological Club at Grand Rapids four years previously (1895) fresh in mind, favored a similar organization in Nebraska. So early in 1899, the Nebraska Ornithological Club of Lincoln was organized. It happened that at almost exactly the same time, but quite independently, Mr. I. S. Trostler, then of Omaha, had also effected a preliminary organization called the Nebraska Ornithologists' Association. Correspondence through a committee of the Nebraska Ornithological Club, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. D. Hunter, looking toward the consolidation of these two organizations, led to the formation of a combined and expanded group of forty-three Nebraskans interested in birds, who on July 15, 1899, elected their

officers, consisting of Prof. Bruner as President, Mr. Trostler as Vice-President, Dr. Wolcott as Recording Secretary, and Mr. Hunter as Corresponding Secretary. The first annual meeting of this organization, called the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, was held at Lincoln the following December 16.

Dr. Wolcott was born at Alton, Illinois, on October 11, 1868, son of Robert N. and Agnes (Swain) Wolcott. He was graduated from the High School at Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1885, following which he continued his education at the University of Michigan. At that institution he earned three degrees; the Bachelor of Law in 1890, Bachelor of Science in 1892, and Doctor of Medicine in 1893. Although qualified to practice law or medicine, Dr. Wolcott chose to follow the career of a biologist. He engaged in two summers of work, in 1893 and 1894, on a biological survey of the waters of the state of Michigan, for the Michigan Fish Commission, and a semester of graduate work at Michigan Agricultural College. In 1894 he received a call to continue his graduate studies and to act as the only assistant to Dr. H. B. Ward in the Department of Zoology at the University of Nebraska, where in 1895 he received the degree of Master of Arts.

In the field of ornithology, Dr. Wolcott's especial interest was in the nesting habits of birds. His first publications, in the *Ornithologist and Oologist* (1884), dealing with bird observations in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and later in the *Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club* (1899), dealing with the nesting of different species of Michigan birds, show this special interest. After his removal to Nebraska he continued the publication of bird notes, first in 1899 in a short paper in the *Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club*, on the birds noted in Nebraska in the fall and winter of 1898-99, and later in the *Proceedings* of our own organization. Both at Michigan and Nebraska he had been keenly interested in entomology as well as ornithology. He once showed the writer of these lines a large number of notebooks, in which he had copied verbatim for future reference, in his beautifully legible flowing handwriting, a great mass of original descriptions of butterflies, moths, beetles and other insects. Three years after his removal from Michigan he published in the *Proceedings of the Nebraska Academy of Science* a list of the twenty species of sphingid moths and the sixty-nine species of bombycine moths then known from the state. Throughout his activity at Nebraska he always maintained a keen interest in the Lepidoptera and Coleoptera, and it was one of his cherished projects to prepare, in cooperation with Mr. R. A. Leussler of Omaha, an exhaustive treatment of the Nebraska butterflies. He had a special interest, also, in a study of the color variations in the family of tiger beetles, especially those of Nebraska.

But the most serious interest of Dr. Wolcott in the Arthropoda was not with the insects so much as with the mites. Probably largely as a result of his early work in Michigan on fresh-water biology, he developed an especial interest in the mites (Acarina) and especially in the family of American water mites (Hydrachnidæ). In the latter group he became, through his researches carried on at Nebraska during the decade beginning about 1898, the generally regarded American authority. In 1899, he published two important papers on the North American species of *Atax*, and other important papers followed regularly during each of the following four years, including revisions of the North American species of the genera *Curvipes* and *Limnesia*. In 1905, he published a most important synopsis of the genera of water mites. His great collection of these tiny creatures, and his library relating to them, are undoubtedly among the best extant.

As previously stated, Dr. Wolcott was the first Recording Secretary of the N. O. U. He retained that office by successive re-elections during

the years 1900-01 to 1903-04, and the first three volumes of the *Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union* were brought out under his editorship, in 1900, 1901, and 1902, respectively. At the close of his fifth year as our Secretary, in 1904, Dr. Wolcott desired to accept the secretaryship of the American Microscopical Society, so at his insistence the secretaryship of the N. O. U. was handed over to the writer. Dr. Wolcott retained the secretaryship of the American Microscopical Society for the following five years, producing for that organization a series of beautifully edited annual volumes, comparable in quality to the 1902 volume of our own *Proceedings*. His retirement as Secretary of the N. O. U. also made it possible for our organization to elect him as its sixth President, on January 30, 1904.

The year after his arrival in Nebraska to assist Dr. Ward in the recently established Department of Zoology at the University, Dr. Wolcott was made an instructor in that Department. Three years later (1898) he was promoted to be Adjunct Professor of Zoology. In 1902, he became Assistant Professor of Zoology and Demonstrator in Anatomy, and the following year was again promoted, to be Associate Professor of Zoology, in charge of the Anatomy Laboratory, which was located on the top floor of Mechanic Arts Hall. Two years later (1905) he was given the rank of a full professor, with the title of Professor of Anatomy. It was he, largely, who developed the pre-medical work in the University of Nebraska, then under the administration of the Zoology Department. In 1909, Dr. Wolcott was made Chairman of the Department of Zoology and acting Dean of the College of Medicine. When a permanent location for the College of Medicine of the University was to be chosen, Dr. Wolcott selected Omaha, but he himself chose to stay at the main University in Lincoln, as Dean of the Junior Medical College there, and to continue his administration of the Department of Zoology. In 1915 he severed official connection with the College of Medicine, and assumed the more restricted duties of Professor of Zoology and Chairman of the Department, which remained his status until his death, after forty years of continuous service at the University. When he came to Nebraska, in 1894, to assist Dr. Ward, there were probably a hundred students in the Department of Zoology. At the time of his death he had associated with him in the Department three professors, two instructors and five assistants, to teach the courses in zoology to several hundred students. He was also acting as Chairman of the Department of Bacteriology and Pathology in the University at the time of his death.

Dr. Wolcott fortunately was able to broaden his personal knowledge of zoological conditions in various parts of the United States through his summer teaching work. He was in charge of the biology courses at the University of Missouri, at Columbia, in the summers of 1901, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1924, and 1925. He also did summer work at the Marine Biological Station at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and in the summers of 1923, 1926 and subsequently, carried on similar work at the Puget Sound Biological Station in Washington state. However, it probably is not too much to say that Dr. Wolcott's primary interest was in the Nebraska fauna and the principles governing its distribution. Graduate students in zoology were frequently encouraged by him to carry on researches along this general line, often with highly valuable results.

For almost the whole of his very active life, Dr. Wolcott apparently was in splendid health, due in large part, no doubt, to his love of the out-of-doors, to which he resorted at every opportunity in his busy life. He was an enthusiastic sportsman, and was honored by election to honorary membership by the Lincoln chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The illness which was to claim his life began, in fact, while he was on a hunting trip, during the open season on pheasants, last fall. At first this was not regarded as dangerous, but, growing steadily worse, it be-

came necessary to remove him to a hospital, in December, and he passed away on the evening of January 23, 1934. On June 2, 1897, Dr. Wolcott was married to Miss Clara Buckstaff of Lincoln, who, with a brother, son and daughter, survives him.

Dr. Wolcott was always a very popular leader in the N. O. U. He shares only with Prof. Bruner the distinction of having been elected more than once to the presidency of our organization. Prof. Bruner was our first and also our fifteenth President. Dr. Wolcott was our President four times, in 1904-05, 1916-17, 1923-24, and 1924-25. He joined the American Ornithologists' Union in 1901, and in 1903 was honored by that organization through election to the restricted class of Members. In 1909, he was invited by the magazine *Bird-Lore* to represent Nebraska in the Advisory Council of that magazine, succeeding Dr. E. H. Barbour, who had held the position for the preceding decade. In 1924, he became a member of the Wilson Ornithological Club. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Society of Zoologists, American Society of Naturalists, American Microscopical Society, Ecological Society of America, Entomological Society of America, Nebraska Academy of Science, and an honorary member of the Michigan Academy of Science. He belonged also to the Society of the Sigma Xi, Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and the American Association of University Professors. He was a thirty-third degree Scottish rite Mason, and his burial in Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, on January 25, was in charge of Lincoln Lodge No. 19, A. F. & A. M. His interest in philately is shown by his activity in the Lincoln Stamp Collectors Club, of which he was the President.

The ornithological contributions of Dr. Wolcott consist chiefly of a number of short articles and scattered notes on bird observations, published in the principal ornithological periodicals. He was one of the co-authors, with Prof. Bruner and the writer, of the *Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska*, published in 1904, and author of *An Analysis of Nebraska's Bird Fauna*, published in 1909 (*Proc. N. O. U.*, iv, part 2, pp. 25-55, pl. i-vi). He wrote also a number of articles on other phases of natural history, and on conservation. But his *magnum opus* was his splendid *Animal Biology*, a text-book in beginning zoology, to which he devoted a great deal of labor during the last few years of his life, and which was published late in 1933, only a few weeks before the onset of his fatal illness.

Dr. Wolcott was a thorough scientist, with broad and varied interests and a sound fundamental training. He was most painstaking in all of his research. A task undertaken by him never needed revision by another. As a teacher he was inspiring to his students, and stood for high standards and ideals. He was a man of great enthusiasm for the task in hand, and possessed of a most kindly and lovable personality. Association with him in the field, that testing-place of human character, only added to one's respect for his personality and his knowledge of Nature. No one had a sharper eye for the birds, or a keener ear for their songs. As one who was associated with him in bird work at the University for a third of a century, the writer fully realizes how much he will be missed by his colleagues. His example is, however, imperishable, and will inspire the N. O. U. to carry on the good work.

To all of the surviving relatives of its two deceased Presidents, the N. O. U. extends its most sincere sympathy.

## OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE NEBRASKA

### ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

- 1899 University of Nebraska, Lincoln, December 16, organized.  
1900 Neligh, January, Volume I *Proceedings* published.  
1901 Omaha, January 12, 2nd Meeting.  
Lincoln, October, Volume II *Proceedings* published.  
1902 Lincoln, February 1, 3rd Meeting.  
Lincoln, December, Volume III *Proceedings* published.  
1903 Lincoln, January 24, 4th Meeting.  
Lincoln, May 9, 1st Field Day.  
1904 Lincoln, January 30, 5th Meeting.  
Lincoln, May 14, 2nd Field Day.  
Omaha, December 31, 6th Meeting.  
1905 Dunbar, May 6, 3rd Field Day.  
Lincoln, December 29, 7th Meeting.  
1906 Peru, May 4, 4th Field Day.  
1907 Lincoln, January 19, 8th Meeting. Last winter meeting.  
Weeping Water, May 18, 5th Field Day.  
1908 Lincoln, February, Volume IV *Proceedings* started.  
Bellevue, May 8 and 9, 9th Meeting and 6th Field Day.  
July, *Field Check-List of Nebraska Birds* published.  
1909 Lincoln, May 14 and 15, 10th Meeting and 7th Field Day.  
1910 Peru, April 29 and 30, 11th Meeting and 8th Field Day.  
Lincoln, August 20, Volume V *Proceedings* started.  
1911 Lincoln, May 5 and 6, 12th Meeting and 9th Field Day.  
1912 Lincoln, May 10 and 11, 13th Meeting and 10th Field Day.  
1913 Lincoln, May 9 and 10, 14th Meeting and 11th Field Day.  
1914 Lincoln, May 15 and 16, 15th Meeting and 12th Field Day.  
1915 Omaha, May 7 and 8, 16th Meeting and 13th Field Day.  
Affiliation Agreement between N. O. U. and W. O. C. adopted.  
Lincoln, July 10, Volume VI *Proceedings* started.  
1916 Omaha, May 5 and 6, 17th Meeting and 14th Field Day.  
1917 Lincoln, May 4 and 5, 18th Meeting and 15th Field Day.  
1918 Omaha, May 10 and 11, 19th Meeting and 16th Field Day.  
1919 Hastings, May 9 and 10, 20th Meeting and 17th Field Day.  
1920 Lincoln, May 14 and 15, 21st Meeting and 18th Field Day.  
1921 Omaha, May 13 and 14, 22nd Meeting and 19th Field Day.  
1922 Lincoln, May 19 and 20, 23rd Meeting and 20th Field Day.  
1923 Fairbury, May 11 and 12, 24th Meeting and 21st Field Day.  
1924 Lincoln, May 9 and 10, 25th Meeting and 22nd Field Day.  
Affiliation Agreement between N. O. U. and W. O. C. ended.  
1925 Lincoln, January 1, *Letter of Information* started.  
Superior, May 8 and 9, 26th Meeting and 23rd Field Day.  
1926 Omaha, May 14 and 15, 27th Meeting and 24th Field Day.  
1927 Hastings, May 13 and 14, 28th Meeting and 25th Field Day.  
1928 Lincoln, May 11 and 12, 29th Meeting and 26th Field Day.  
1929 Sioux City, Iowa, May 10 and 11, 30th Meeting and 27th  
Field Day, jointly with I. O. U.  
1930 Omaha, May 16 and 17, 31st Meeting and 28th Field Day,  
jointly with I. O. U.  
1931 Lincoln, May 15 and 16, 32nd Meeting and 29th Field Day.  
1932 Hastings, May 13 and 14, 33rd Meeting and 30th Field Day.  
1933 Lincoln, January, *Nebraska Bird Review* started.  
Fairbury, May 12 and 13, 34th Meeting and 31st Field Day.  
1934 Omaha, May 18 and 19, 35th Meeting and 32nd Field Day.

4-1934

## WHOLE ISSUE *Nebraska Bird Review* (April 1934) 2(2)

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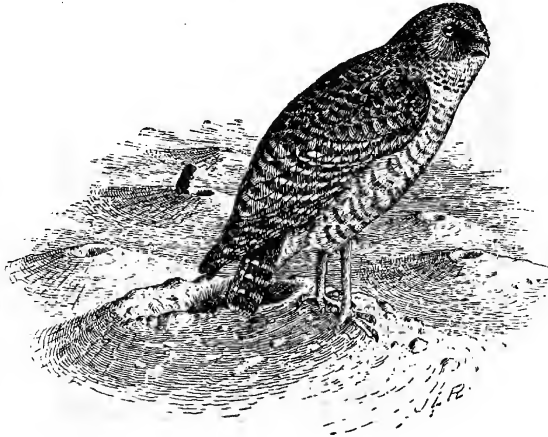
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VOLUME II

APRIL, 1934

NUMBER 2

# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW



*A Review of Nebraska Ornithology*

Published by the

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Lincoln, Nebraska

# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

A Review of Nebraska Ornithology

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# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

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## NOTES ON SOME LOGAN COUNTY BIRDS

By MR. and MRS. EARL W. GLANDON

For many years past we have been students of bird life, but it was not until during the past year that we started to make a formal list of the birds that we have seen in the vicinity of Stapleton, Logan County. Therefore many of these records are from memory only, and the definite dates have not been preserved. There are a few birds on our list that we have not personally seen, but concerning which we do have reliable information that they have occurred here. Our list to date follows:

1. Lesser Common Loon (*Gavia immer elasson*). Very rare migrant. We have only one record. One was shot in October, 1932, by B. R. Gould, a grocer in Stapleton. The bird was mistaken for a goose by a party of hunters at Tarbox Lake, seven miles northeast of Stapleton. Mr. Frank Hanes, a local taxidermist, who lived at Cody Lake, fourteen miles north of Stapleton, mounted the bird and it is now on display here. It has a wing 331.5 mm. long and the culmen is 69.5 mm. long. Prof. M. H. Swenk states that these measurements indicate a small example of *G. i. elasson*, probably a female.

2. Common Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*). Common summer resident.

3. White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). Rare migrant. We have seen specimens that were shot at Cody Lake and mounted by Mr. Hanes.

4. Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias* subsp.). Common summer resident.

5. Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*). Very rare straggler. We are not quite sure that the Little Blue Heron should be included in this list. Mr. Glandon saw one of these herons, and identified it beyond question, in a swamp near Pleasanton, Buffalo County, many years ago. Again, in the autumn of 1932, while driving along the highway about six miles southwest of Stapleton, he noticed perhaps five or six herons in the branches of a huge cottonwood tree. As he approached they took flight, but returned to the tree as soon as he had passed. He was not near enough to distinguish coloring or markings well, but because of their size and general appearance, concluded that they would not fit with any other species than this one.

6. American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.

7. Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis* subsp.). Common migrant.

8. Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*). Rare migrant, according to statements of local sportsmen.

9. Common Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*). Abundant migrant and casual nester here.

10. Common Black Duck (*Anas rubripes tristis*). Rare migrant. During the open season of 1932, while hunting five miles west of Stapleton, Mr. Glandon shot two ducks which he took to be female Mallards. When he examined them more closely later he found that the general coloring was darker and that the bill and feet were wholly dusky instead

of the bright orange-red feet and more or less orange bill of the Mallard. Several months later he found a description by Forbush that fitted these ducks so well that he felt certain that there could be no doubt but that they were Common Black Ducks. They were in a little open water surrounded by thin ice. There were five in the flock. That fall he believed that he saw others in flight, but had not seen any during previous years, nor has he seen any since.

11. Baldpate (*Mareca americana*). Rare migrant. Mr. Glandon shot one occasionally several years ago, but cannot be sure that he has seen one in the last few years.

12. American Pintail (*Dasyla acuta tzitzihoo*). Abundant migrant and casual nester here.

13. Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*). Very common migrant.

14. Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*). Very common migrant and casual nester here.

15. Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*). Common migrant and casual nester here.

16. Redhead (*Nyroca americana*). Uncommon migrant. We see them occasionally during the spring migration, but do not know that one has been taken here for several years.

17. Canvas-back (*Nyroca valisneria*). Same as preceding species.

18. Lesser Scaup (*Nyroca affinis*). Common migrant.

19. Northern Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*). Rare migrant. We have seen a specimen shot at Cody Lake and mounted by Mr. Hanes.

20. Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis* subsp.). Common winter resident.

21. American Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus s. johannis*). Common winter resident.

22. Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*). Common resident.

23. Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* subsp.). Common resident.

24. Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*). Common resident. Probably nests here.

25. Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). Winter resident. During the winter of 1933-34 Mr. Glandon saw several of these falcons, or else a few individuals were seen many times, on the tableland south of Stapleton. Usually they were seen on fence posts and when one was approached it flew straight away with rapid wing beats, occasionally varied by a short glide, not rising much higher than the post it had left.

26. Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius* subsp.). Uncommon visitor. We see one chasing through our trees now and then.

27. Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius* subsp.). Very common summer resident. May nest here.

28. Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido americanus*). Common resident and nester.

29. Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris*). Becoming rare. Resident and breeder.

30. Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus* subsp.). Uncommon resident and nester. This bird has almost disappeared here. Every spring we see a few. One pair came into the edge of the village every year for a period, but we have not heard nor seen them now for two springs.

31. Ring-necked Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*). Abundant resident. Nests here.

32. Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*). Uncommon migrant.

33. Northern American Coot (*Fulica americana americana*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.

34. Northern Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.

35. Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*). Common summer resident. Possible nester.

36. Southern Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus americanus*). Uncommon summer resident. Nests here. Mr. Glandon has seen several in the lake country of McPherson County. Mr. Hanes has seen them at Cody Lake in this county.
37. Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*). Common summer resident. Nests here.
38. Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). Common summer resident. May nest here.
39. Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria* subsp.). Common in migrations.
40. Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*). Uncommon migrant. Mr. Glandon saw a few of these birds during the spring migration in 1933.
41. Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*). Common migrant.
42. Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). Uncommon migrant. We saw mounted specimens, shot by Mr. Hanes at Cody Lake.
43. Wilson Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). Uncommon migrant. Mr. Glandon has seen them occasionally during the spring migration; however, not every year.
44. Franklin Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). Common migrant.
45. American Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*). Very common summer resident. Probably nests here.
46. Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.
47. Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.
48. Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*). Common resident. Nests here.
49. Screech Owl (*Otus asio* subsp.). Very common resident and breeder.
50. Western Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus occidentalis*). Common resident. Seen and heard calling at night in a cottonwood grove. Almost every year one to several are captured here.
51. Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*). Common summer resident and nester.
52. Sennett Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor sennetti*). Very common summer resident. Breeds here.
53. Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Uncommon or casual summer visitor. We see from one to a few in our yard now and then, but not every year.
54. Eastern Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon alcyon*). Common summer resident. May nest here.
55. Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*). Very common summer resident and breeder.
56. Common Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*). Uncommon summer resident. Occasionally at the bird bath and among the trees about our yard. Not known to nest here.
57. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.
58. Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewis*). Very rare winter resident. One wintered at Shadonix farm seven miles south of Stapleton in 1933-34 (*antea*, ii, pp. 5-6).
59. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus villosus*). Very common resident. Probably nests here.
60. Northern Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*). Abundant resident.
61. Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Very abundant summer resident. Nests here.
62. Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Very abundant summer resident. Nests here.
63. Northern Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus boreus*). Rare migrant. One in the yard under the spray a few years ago.

64. Alder Traill Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii traillii*). Summer resident. One seen ten miles south of Stapleton in the summer of 1933. Mr. Glandon believes that he has seen these little flycatchers other times also.
65. Saskatchewan Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris enthymia*). Very abundant resident. Nests here.
66. Common Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia riparia*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.
67. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.
68. Northern Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*). Very abundant summer resident. Nests here.
69. American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*). Common summer resident. Nests here.
70. Eastern Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*). Abundant resident. Nests here.
71. Piñon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*). Uncommon visitor. Almost every year a small flock appears in the fall or spring and stays a few weeks.
72. Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*). Abundant resident. Nests here.
73. Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*). Common winter resident.
74. Eastern Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris americana*). Common winter resident.
75. Western House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon parkmanii*). Common summer resident. Casually nests here.
76. Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris* subsp.). Common summer resident. Nests here.
77. Western Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*). Common summer resident. Nests here.
78. Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.
79. Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.
80. Eastern Robin (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*). Very abundant summer resident. Nests here.
81. Olive-backed Swainson Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*). Abundant migrant.
82. Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens ?salicicola*). Common migrant.
83. Eastern Common Bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*). Common summer resident. Nests here.
84. American Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*). Common migratory visitor.
85. Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). Common migratory visitor.
86. White-rumped Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.
87. Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). Common summer resident. Nests here.
88. Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Common migrant.
89. Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*). Common migrant.
90. Eastern Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*). Very common. May nest here.
91. Eastern Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata coronata*). Very common migrant.
92. Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). Common migrant.
93. Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). Common migrant.
94. Grinnell Common Water-Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*). Uncommon migrant.

95. Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas* subsp.). Common summer resident. Nests here.
96. Long-tailed Chat (*Icteria virens longicauda*). Common migrant.
97. Wilson Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*). Common migrant.
98. American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). Common migrant.
99. English House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*). Very abundant resident and nester.
100. Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.
101. Eastern Common Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). Summer resident. Nests here. Keeps to the low grounds and damp meadows and has a call that we describe as "sweet-tee-oo", the "sweet" on an ascending note and the "tee-oo" on a descending note, drawn out and slurred.
102. Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). Very abundant summer resident and nester on the uplands.
103. Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.
104. Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus* subsp.). Very abundant summer resident. Nests here.
105. Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.
106. Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.
107. Bullock Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*). Rare summer visitor. On a very hot afternoon during the summer of 1933, we were watching from the window as various birds came to bathe in the spray on the lawn. Mrs. Glandon discovered an oriole that was different from either of the preceding species. It stayed for some time and was only a few feet from the window so we had an excellent chance to study it, and identify it as the Bullock Oriole. We believe we may have seen other specimens, but cannot say positively.
108. Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Common visitor in fall and winter.
109. Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). Very common summer resident.
110. Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.
111. Cowbird (*Molothrus ater* subsp.). Very abundant summer resident.
112. Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus papago*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.
113. Western Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea interfusa*). Common summer resident. Nests here.
114. Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). Rare migrant. During the spring migration of 1933, probably in May, Mrs. Glandon discovered one or two of these buntings in wild grass and on a post not far from the house. The following forenoon a flock of eight or ten were in the back yard on the lawn, fence and in the alley. Here we had an excellent chance to study them for about an hour.
115. Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Abundant summer resident. Nests here.
116. Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina* subsp.). Very rare migrant. During October of 1933, Mrs. Glandon heard strange bird notes while walking about the yard. We positively identified this bird as the author. It was eating the seeds of the ash trees. This was the only one we have seen.
117. Cassin Purple Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*). Rare migrant. During the spring migration of 1933, Mrs. Glandon saw one of these finches

and heard its notes, one forenoon. We did not identify it at that time, but in October of that year, at the same time that the Evening Grosbeak appeared, two males, one immature, and one female stayed for about a week, eating seeds from the ash trees and visiting the bird bath.

118. Pale American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis pallidus*). Very abundant resident. Nests here.

119. Arctic Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus arcticus*). Abundant migrant.

120. Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.

121. Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*). Common summer resident. Nests here.

122. Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*). Very common summer resident. Nests here.

123. Eastern Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*). Very common migrant.

124. Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea* subsp.). Common winter resident.

125. Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina* subsp.). Common migrant.

126. Western Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla arenacea*). Common summer resident. Nests here.

127. Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). Common migrant. On a few occasions we have identified these large sparrows. We believe it has always been during spring migration. We generally see them in the garden or other open plots, not among the trees.

128. Gambel Sparrow (*Zonotrichia gambelii*). Common migrant. Probably also includes the White-crowned Sparrow (*Z. leucophrys*).

129. White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Common migrant.

130. Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia* subsp.). Common migrant.

131. Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus* subsp.). Very abundant winter resident. Found feeding with Saskatchewan Horned Larks during the winter, principally in open fields. During the snow storm in February, 1934, great numbers of them were observed feeding on patches swept clear of snow in the fields.

132. Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). Commonly seen in winter.

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Since the above list was completed and sent in for publication, during the spring of 1934 we have identified four additional species of birds in the Stapleton vicinity. These are the following:

1. Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*). On March 16, 1934, Mrs. Glandon saw a flock of eight cranes flying low over our yard. They were white in color, with black tipped wings. Their notes were similar to the tremolo notes of the Sandhill Crane. They were directly overhead when first seen, and soon disappeared behind some trees.

2. Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*). Uncommon migrant.

3. Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). Uncommon migrant.

4. Shufeldt Oregon Junco (*Junco oregonus shufeldti*). Common migrant.

This brings the Logan County list to 136 birds. Logan County, Nebraska, is located along the mid-southern boundary of the Sandhill Region of Nebraska, a little west of the geographic center of the state, about midway between the 100th and 101st degrees of longitude and the 41st and 42nd degrees of latitude. Physiographically it is on the line of tension between the sandhills and the prairies, its northern portion being sandhills and its southern portion prairie. The headwaters of the South Loup River cross the southern part of the county.

## GENERAL NOTES

The European Starling at Red Cloud, Webster County.—Early in October of 1933, an European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) appeared in this locality. Though its identity was suspected from the first, it was so shy that a positive identification was difficult. After having been noticed in this vicinity for several days, on October 13 it was found dead by our pool. The cause of its death is unknown, as no injury was evident upon an examination of its body. With the finding of the dead bird, all doubt as to its identity was removed. This record antedates that of Mr. Stipsky from Hooper, Nebraska (*antea*, ii, p. 5), and becomes the seventh Nebraska record for the species, while Mr. Stipsky's becomes the eighth.—MRS. GEORGE W. TRINE, *Red Cloud, Nebr.*

The Ninth Nebraska Record of the European Starling.—On February 24, 1934, two young men from near Ithaca, Saunders County, brought a bird to Mr. Arthur Anderson, who identified it as the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*). After having the identification of the bird, the young men took it to a man at the printing office. However, when I went there to see it on February 26, I was disappointed to find that in trying to transfer the bird from one box to another it had gotten out, and the man in the printing office had opened the door and allowed it to escape. He said "it was such a pretty bird that he did not like to see it die." This record constitutes, I believe, the ninth record of this bird for Nebraska. They seem to be coming in rather fast now.—MISS MARY ST. MARTIN, *Wahoo, Nebr.*

The First Record Specimen for Nebraska of the Caspian Tern.—On May 5, 1893, Dr. F. L. Riser shot a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*) at the Capitol Beach salt basin west of Lincoln. This was the first record of the species for the state. It was originally recorded by Prof. Bruner in his "Some Notes on Nebraska Birds" (*Rept. Nebr. State Hort. Soc.*, 1896, p. 60) simply as "Lincoln, spring 1893 (Dr. F. L. Riser)." In Bruner, Wolcott and Swenk's "Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska," published in 1904 (p. 20), a little more information regarding the record is given in the statement: "Our only record is of a specimen shot at Salt lake, near Lincoln, May 5, 1893, by F. L. Riser, and now in the Wesleyan University collection." Prof. M. H. Swenk informs me that this specimen was secured by Prof. Bruner shortly thereafter, and for several years it was kept in his office in Mechanic Arts Hall, but about 1919 when an effort was made to locate this specimen, it was not to be found. Recently, I discovered a very dirty and greasy mounted specimen of the Caspian Tern in the Department of Zoology of the University, which Prof. Swenk recognized with certainty as the specimen collected by Dr. Riser in 1893. I cleaned and degreased the specimen, which will now be placed for permanent preservation in the University of Nebraska Museum. It presents the following measurements in millimeters: Wing, 414; tail, 152; tarsus, 43; culmen, 68.5; depth of bill at base, 22.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, *Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

Some 1917 Bird Records.—Recently, in searching over my old bird notes, I found the exact date on which I saw the Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii* subsp.) in a hackberry tree near my house at Seward, Seward County, Nebraska, which date had been reported from memory as about April of 1918 (Swenk, *antea*, i, p. 100). It was really on May 2, 1917. Reviewing my notes, taken at the time, makes me more positive than ever that my identification of the bird was correct. I wish also to report that on June 5, 1917, Mrs. H. C. Johnston and I, with others, saw the Eastern Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*) several times in Griffen's pasture, five miles east of Superior, Nuckolls County.

This was my first observation of this species, but I think Mrs. Johnston had previously observed it at Superior. This record comes between the finding of the first Bewick Wren at Superior, in the spring of 1925, and the finding of the first nest of the Eastern Carolina Wren there, on July 10, 1928 (*l. c.*, pp. 100-101). The year 1917 was ornithologically a lucky one for me, for it was on May 13, 14 and 15 of that year that I had two male and two female Cape May Warblers (*Dendroica tigrina*) in the same hackberry tree in which I saw the Bewick Wren earlier in the month.—Mrs. L. H. MCKILLIP, *Seward, Nebr.*

**Records of the Red Phalarope and American Scoter from Cherry County, Nebraska.**—On October 15, 1921, I shot a specimen of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) on Dads Lake, south of Wood Lake, in Cherry County, Nebraska. This bird is now in my collection, and according to Prof. M. H. Swenk forms the first definite record of the species for Nebraska. On October 21, 1930, I shot an American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) about thirty miles south of Wood Lake, in Cherry County, that being the first time I had seen this duck in Nebraska. Prof. Swenk informs me that there are only one or two previous records of it for the state. On October 15, 1933, I shot an Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) in the same general region, that being the first time I had noted this species in Nebraska.—H. B. CONOVER, *Chicago, Ill.*

**The Desert Sparrow Hawk in Lincoln County in November.**—On or about November 18, 1933, a male Sparrow Hawk was caught alive in a barn near here. It was brought to me while it still was alive, but it died on the night of November 19. The specimen being in very good condition, on the following day I sent it to Prof. M. H. Swenk at Lincoln, who informed me that it was an almost typical specimen of the Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*), in the winter plumage. The specimen was preserved by Prof. Swenk. While Sparrow Hawks migrate abundantly each April and October through all parts of Nebraska, and breed sparingly in suitable situations over the state, they also occasionally are to be found during the winter in most sections of Nebraska. This specimen indicates that at least some of such occasional wintering individuals of this species in western Nebraska are the Desert Sparrow Hawk, of which there are as yet relatively few definite records in the state, as was shown by Prof. Swenk in the October, 1933, number of the *Nebraska Bird Review* (i, pp. 130-133).—WILSON TOUT, *North Platte, Nebr.*

**The Platte River as a Migration Route for Birds.**—Apparently there are two different routes that birds may follow to reach eastern Wyoming from the south, one being through New Mexico and Colorado into Wyoming, and the other through Kansas to Nebraska and then up the Platte River and its north branch to Wyoming.

One bird that I believe comes into Wyoming along the Platte River is the Eastern Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum antillarum*). The first record for the bird in this state was of the one seen at Torrington, Wyoming, by the writer, on June 11, 1929. Eight or ten seen by Dr. J. W. Scott at Fort Laramie on June 25, 1932, constitute the second record. In 1933, four were seen near Torrington on May 27, and on a drive down the river on May 29 I saw several in Nebraska, between Scottsbluff and the state line. This bird has been seen only along the river. Forster Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) and American Black Terns (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) were observed at reservoirs quite a distance south of the river, but no Eastern Least Terns. This tendency to stay close to the Platte River is what leads me to believe that they follow this river all the way from the Missouri River to Wyoming.

Another bird that follows this route into Wyoming is the American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*). In May of the years 1931,



1932, and 1933, many of these birds were seen patrolling the river, with the Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), in search of food. This habit would naturally lead the birds to follow the North Platte River from Nebraska into Wyoming. Since there are no records for the American Herring Gull in New Mexico, it follows that they do not use the direct route from the south. There are several records from Colorado, but all are from near the South Platte River or its tributaries. Do these birds enter and leave Colorado via the South Platte River?

Because of the more favorable climate at lower altitudes, birds could migrate north through Kansas, to the Platte River in Nebraska, follow the North Platte into Wyoming and reach here earlier than those migrating along the base of the front range of the Rocky Mountains. By comparing records for Cheyenne and Torrington, Wyoming, I find evidence that this has been done, but it is almost impossible to prove anything.—OTTO McCREARY, *Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.*

A Recent and Former Occurrences of the Whooping Crane in Saskatchewan and North Dakota.\*—Appropos of the article on "The Present Status of the Whooping Crane" in the October number of the *Nebraska Bird Review* (1, pp. 111-129), a note in the *Western Sportsman*, Bismarck, North Dakota, for October, 1933 (p. 14), reports that although "according to all rules and regulations the Whooping Crane should be extinct, a few of the big birds persist in bobbing up in North Dakota each season", and also that "C. M. Bryant, the old-timer of St. John, reported seeing a flock of about twenty-five near that town on April 18, 1933. Charlie knows his stuff, and his identification was so accurate that there can be no question of the identity of the birds seen by him. This is the largest number that has been reported in recent years." The *Western Sportsman* requests hunters to "keep your eyes open for these exceedingly rare and beautiful birds this fall", and adds that it will "deeply appreciate immediate notification of the appearance of Whooping Cranes within the state (of North Dakota) this season. These birds, with their immense size, their snow-white plumage and black wing-tips, and their typical crane flight and call, cannot possibly be mistaken for anyone within a shotgun range of them, and there can be no excuse for killing the last few birds of a noble race."

When I went to North Dakota shooting in the early 1880's, I used to see a good many Whooping Cranes, sometimes eight or ten together, but most generally there would not be more than four. I have two fine mounted specimens of this bird. One very large one was shot out of a flock at Buffalo Lake, which is about twenty miles north and a little east of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. This was about 1904 or 1905. It was just at dusk, and my companion and I were returning to our camp after a day's duck shooting, when suddenly a great clamor was just over our heads and my companion seized his gun and fired without really knowing what he was shooting at. I could only estimate that the flock may have been of seven to nine birds—it may have been of ten or twelve—as it was pretty dark. But this great big fellow came down with a broken wing, and we had quite a time gathering him into the boat.

I saw one of these birds about midway between Saskatoon and Dundern, Saskatchewan, October 3, 1927, and learned of one killed by a farmer near Estavan, Saskatchewan, on October 29 of the same year, as recorded in the *Auk*, xlv, pp. 202-203, April, 1928.—WILLIAM B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Mich.*

\*This note on the Whooping Crane in Saskatchewan and North Dakota is included in this number of the *Review* as supplemental to the extended article on that bird in the October, 1933, number.—Ed.

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

As announced in the January number of the *Review*, the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the N. O. U. will be held in the Joslyn Memorial at Omaha on May 18, 1934, followed on May 19 by our Thirty-second Annual Field Day. Plans for these occasions are proceeding rapidly. It is planned to assemble for registration at 10:00 A. M. in a room in the Memorial that has been assigned to us for our exhibit, and to hold the annual business meeting in the Lecture Hall near by, before noon. Following the luncheon hour, it is planned to make a tour of the Joslyn Memorial at 1:30 P. M., again assembling in the Lecture Hall at 2:00 P. M. to hear an address of welcome by Mayor Towl of Omaha, and the address of our retiring President, Mrs. L. H. McKillip, after which a program of papers will occupy the time until 4:15 P. M., when Mr. Victor Overman of Omaha will lecture on Nebraska wild flowers, illustrating his talk with slides showing his many wonderful photographs of living wild flowers. In the program it is expected to make appropriate recognition of the fact that about a century ago Prince Maximilian of Wied passed up and again down the Missouri River, along the eastern boundary of our state, observing the birds and recording his observations of them between April 26 and May 13, 1833, and May 5 and 14, 1834. The afternoon program will end at 5:00 P. M., and the annual N. O. U. banquet will be held at six o'clock sharp at the Knights of Columbus Club, 2027 Dodge Street, almost directly across the street from the Joslyn Memorial. Plates will be seventy-five cents each. Immediately following the banquet we will enjoy a talk by Mrs. R. E. Chesebrough of Omaha, well known as a radio speaker, after which a return will be made to the Lecture Hall in the Joslyn Memorial to view several reels of moving pictures of birds. A recess will be taken at 8:30 P. M. to permit those who so desire to attend a concert being given at that hour by the Matinee Musicale of Omaha in the Concert Hall of the Joslyn Memorial. The Joslyn Memorial is located between 22nd and 24th Streets on Dodge, just west of the Central High School. Several of Omaha's leading hotels are located within a few blocks of the Memorial.

In a room in the Joslyn Memorial close by the Lecture Hall there will be on exhibit, from 10:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. on Friday and Saturday, a display of devices for attracting birds to the home, such as bird boxes, feeding trays and bird baths, provided through the courtesy of our N. O. U. member, Mr. Dana Anderson of St. Edward. The series of water-color bird paintings that have been prepared by Miss Iva B. Swenk for the projected, but now temporarily latent, monograph of the Fringillidae of Nebraska, will also be represented by the display of a selection of a dozen or more subjects. Through the courtesy of the Omaha Public Library, there will be an exhibit of bird books, including Audubon's *Birds of America*, and Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology*, as well as other more recent books on ornithology. Bird photographs will also be shown, and N. O. U. members are invited to contribute to this exhibit.

The Field Day will be held in the Fontenelle Reserve on Saturday, May 19, and additional field trips to include the heronries of Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons on the Gifford Estate will also likely be taken, late on Saturday or on Sunday, May 20.

When the mimeographed *Letters of Information* of our organization was started early in 1925, the impelling idea was that it should be made to serve as a medium of intercommunication among our members, in telling each what the other was doing in bird study and what birds were being seen, as well as keeping a current record of the seasonal migrations of the birds. The *Letters* gradually grew in popularity and length, as well as in the scientific value and importance of some of the included data, until, after eight years of the *Letters*, it became obviously desirable to replace them with a recognized form of publication to form a permanent record, and thus the *Nebraska Bird Review* came to be started. While the *L. O. I.* was being published the thought was for the immediate needs only, and the mimeographed edition of each letter was, for purposes of economy, made to conform closely with the current N. O. U. membership and mailing list, no extra or duplicate copies being prepared or preserved. This is now to be regretted, for during the past few years there has been a considerable demand from libraries for complete sets of the *Letters of Information*, and these unfortunately cannot be furnished. All members with complete sets should have them bound for permanent preservation, either in their own library or else in the library of some public institution, where they always will be available for reference.

Mr. Wilson Tout of North Platte has recently made a suggestion in regard to the series of articles entitled "A Brief Synopsis of the Birds of Nebraska" that was begun in the July number of the *Review* with the loons and continued in the October number with the grebes, to the effect that "it would be a good thing to indicate at the close of each of these articles which group will appear in the next issue, so that any of us who have late records can send them right in." The plan is to take up the families of birds, one after another, in the exact sequence of the fourth (1931) edition of the A. O. U. *Check-List of North American Birds*. Knowing this, members can anticipate the groups that will be the subject of each next succeeding article in the series, and all recent records in such groups will be most warmly welcomed by the editor.

In this column a year ago (*antea*, i, p. 17) comment was made on the excessive amount of cutting of trees then going on everywhere in Nebraska, and quotation was made from a letter written by Mr. J. E. Stipsky of Hooper in transmitting his report for 1932 on the nests, eggs and young birds that he found in his neighborhood that season. Mr. Stipsky has recently transmitted his report on birds nesting for 1933, and again comments: "I am sorry to report that my territory was ruined this year and also for next year. The old river bed next to the town was drained, and to do this a large number of trees was cut down and practically all of the underbrush alongside of the old river bed was removed. In doing this many nests were destroyed. In other places the trees are being cut down for fire-wood, and they are also cleaning up a lot of underbrush, so it looks like there will not be many birds in my territory next year." It is estimated that probably six million trees have been cut in Nebraska during the past two years. It is patent that we cannot continue thus cutting more and more trees and shrubbery, and not plant anew, unless we expect to return the Nebraska prairies to their original bleak treelessness and paucity or lack of woodland birds, thus undoing the constructive work of the pioneers who planted many of the trees that have recently been cut. The correct movement to encourage "the planting of a tree for every stump" is a most worthy one.

## THE 1934 MIGRATION SEASON

The months of January and February in 1934 continued to be warmer than normal and mostly dry and bright, as during the fall and early winter season of 1933. Over the state as a whole January was decidedly warm, with an average temperature of 31.5° F., which is 9.0° higher than the normal, and which has been exceeded only four times since 1876. It was, however, slightly (1.4°) lower than for January, 1933. At Lincoln, on January 27, the maximum temperature was 68° F. and on January 23 it was 62° F., while maximum temperatures of over 60° F. occurred during January throughout the state except in the four extreme northwestern counties. At four places in southern Nebraska the thermometer reached 70° F. during January. The coldest periods were January 1 to 3, inclusive, January 25 and January 28 to 30, when at Lincoln there were temperatures from 1° to 17°, which were from 1 to 17 degrees below the normal. Over most of the state minimum temperatures varied from zero to 13° below, but in southwestern Nebraska January minimum temperatures did not drop to zero. Precipitation ranged from 33% in central Nebraska to 91% in the northwestern section, averaging about 50% of the normal. It came in the form of small snow storms, and the snow disappeared shortly after falling, so that the ground was bare throughout the state most of the month. The heaviest snowfall at Lincoln was 1.2 inches on January 29, and the total for the month was 2.1 inches, which is more than most of the central and western sections of the state received, but much less than fell in some localities in northern Nebraska, where the snowfall for the month ran from 5 to 10.5 inches. Precipitation periods at Lincoln were January 2 to 9, 11 and 12, 21, and 27 and 28, to a total of a quarter of an inch. Humidity and sunshine were about normal throughout the state in January.

The month of February, over the state as a whole, was warmer (5°) than normal, especially in the northwestern section, but not so much warmer than normal as were the preceding months of November, December and January. The first seventeen days of February were all warmer than normal, but this was counteracted by the coldness of the last eleven days, which, except for one day (February 20) were all colder than normal, with zero temperatures or lower over most of the state on February 25, 26 and 27. At Lincoln, the warmest days were February 2, 3, 13 and 14, which were respectively 23, 27, 23 and 22 degrees above the normal, reaching a maximum of 69° on the 13th and 68° on the 3rd, while the temperature dropped to 9 degrees below zero on February 26, which was the coldest day of the month throughout the state, the temperature dropping to -31° in Sheridan and Cherry Counties, along the northern border of the state. Precipitation over the state as a whole was about one-fifth greater than the normal, the northwestern and southwestern sections receiving the most, the northeastern section the least. At Lincoln the month was drier than normal, with .40 inch on the 17th, .27 inch on the 24th, .06 inch on the 18th, .04 inch on the 21st, .01 inch on the 25th, and traces of precipitation on the 8th, 11th, 22nd and 23rd, totaling .17 inch less than the normal of .95 inch. At Lincoln there was snowfall on February 8 and 11 (traces), 18, 21, 22 and 23 (traces), 24 and 25, the only considerable snow being that on February 24, when 4.5 inches fell. Snows were general over the state from February 17 to 25, heavier in the southern parts than in the northern. For the most part, the February precipitation was rain, and the snow did not accumulate to any considerable depth at any time, the ground being bare most of the month. There was more than the average amount of sunshine, relative humidity was less than normal, as was also wind movement.

With the coming of March the cold wave of February 21 to 28 ended, and the weather for the first several days of March was much warmer. At Lincoln, temperatures on March 1 to 6 ran from 1 to 15 degrees above the normal, with the minimum at 25° and a maximum of 59° occurring on both March 2 and 4. This warm period was followed by somewhat colder weather during the second week in March. At Lincoln, the temperatures from March 7 to 10 were from 3 to 10 degrees below the normal. Then followed several days of warmer weather, when at Lincoln the temperature varied from 2 degrees below the normal to 22 degrees above it. A sharp cold spell on March 17 and 18, when the minimum thermometer readings at Lincoln were 12° and 8°, respectively, was followed by a third warm period, extending at Lincoln from March 19 to 21, with temperatures from 6 to 17 degrees above the normal. The last ten days of March were all cooler, with temperatures varying from normal to 19 degrees below the normal, except for March 28, which was 7 degrees warmer than normal and had a maximum temperature at Lincoln of 69°. Taken as a whole, at Lincoln the month was very slightly warmer than normal. It was also a very dry month. On March 3 and 23 at Lincoln, there was precipitation of .04 inch, .02 inch fell on March 9 and 16, .18 inch on March 17, .17 inch on March 22, traces on March 21, 28, 29 and 31, and .33 inch on March 30. This precipitation was all rain except that on March 9, 17, 22 and 30, on the three last mentioned dates the snowfall at Lincoln amounting to 1.9, 1.8 and 1.7 inches, respectively. However, the snow soon disappeared on the ground. There was less than the average amount of sunshine, relative humidity was less than normal, and wind movement also was less than normal.

Common Mallard Duck banded No. 555414 on November 29, 1927, on her right leg, and No. A604109 on May 27, 1933, on her left leg, returned unusually early this spring to Mr. F. J. Keller's Rainbow's End Game Refuge near Antioch, Sheridan County, the actual date of return being February 4 (cf. *antea*, i, p. 83). This makes her seventh consecutive spring return to her nest on Mr. Keller's barn roof, and her eighth known year of residence at his Refuge. How many years more she will live and be able to escape the gun of the hunter is problematical. Banded individuals among her descendants have been shot as far north as Canada and as far south as Arizona, Texas and Louisiana. Last year her fourteen eggs were all undersized and infertile. Her 1934 history will be followed with much interest by N. O. U. members.

Mrs. Paul T. Heineman, of Plattsmouth, Cass County, reports under date of February 26 that she has maintained a full food tray for the birds for the last five winters, and that among the more usual visitors to it are to be listed the Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Northern Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Brown Creeper, Eastern Cardinal, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, and, in the early spring, the Tree Sparrow. As unusual visitors to the food tray was a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets in January of 1930 and an Eastern Carolina Wren in January of 1933. Mrs. Heineman confines her bird observations largely to her own yard, which is very favorably situated near a small wooded ravine and within sight of the Missouri River. She adds: "The times that I find most interesting are the very cold weather when I have the most visitors at the food trays; the spring period, before the leaves are out, with the new migrant arrivals; and the summer, when some of my winter bird friends bring their young to the suet and trays. It is surprising to note the many different kinds of birds one may see in a restricted area by constant watchfulness and the use of glasses."

Additional records of the occurrence of the Piñon Jay in Nebraska localities continued to be received during the spring. Mr. George Back of Gothenburg, Dawson County, Nebraska, reported on February 16 that a group of Piñon Jays, sometimes as many as eight together, had been seen in that vicinity during the winter. He gives its call as "a single note, *puh, puh*." Mr. Back also stated in his letter that Eastern Robins and Eastern Cardinals were present in the Gothenburg vicinity during the past unusually warm winter. Dr. Walter D. Jensen of Grant, Perkins County, reported on February 19 that a Piñon Jay appeared there last autumn and remained through the winter. He says further: "Its note is similar to that of the Catbird but much louder, and when startled it has a purring whistle similar to that of the Flicker. It is found most of the time working around trees infested with borers, so you see it is quite a welcome guest." Miss Marian Day of Superior, Nuckolls County, reported on March 8 that while driving, about February 15, eighteen miles west of Superior, she and her mother saw a flock of from twelve to fourteen Piñon Jays.

Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior reports under date of March 1 that Mrs. Paul Schmeling saw two pairs of the Red-eyed Eastern Towhee along the Republican River near Superior on January 16, and that Mrs. Charles Groves saw one of these birds on the Little Blue River near Oak, also in Nuckolls County, on February 11. Mr. Groves on January 5 saw two flocks of the Greater Prairie Chicken, containing altogether about fifteen birds, four miles east of Superior.

Mrs. George W. Trine of Red Cloud, writes under date of March 2 that but few birds stayed within that town during the winter of 1933-34. Not a single Eastern Cardinal was seen there all winter. Usually they are to be noted rather frequently along the Republican River. One Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, some Eastern Hairy Woodpeckers and several Northern Downy Woodpeckers came to Mrs. Trine's feeding table regularly, along with some Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees, and one Eastern Brown Creeper was seen daily practically throughout the winter. Up to the date of writing no Eastern Robins had been seen.

Under date of March 6, Mrs. Lily R. Button of Fremont reports that Eastern Robins and Eastern Common Bluebirds were numerous on one of the islands in the Platte River opposite Fremont all through the winter. On February 1 an Eastern Robin appeared in the town of Fremont, but did not stay. The last week in February they appeared in town quite generally. Mrs. Button says two Northern Blue Jays were seen about her house all winter.

Mr. W. E. Brooks of Elgin, Nebraska, reports through Mr. Dana Anderson of St. Edward, under date of March 15, that he had a flicker box on his premises that was occupied last summer but that blew down during the winter in one of the wind storms. A few days before the date of reporting, a pair of Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers were in the tree in which the flicker box had been located, and seemed to be looking for their last summer's home. Mr. Brooks got a ladder and put the house up in its accustomed place. The birds did not even fly out of the tree, but as soon as the box was up and Mr. Brooks had returned to the ground they immediately entered the old home and took possession.

Under date of March 29, Mr. V. W. Binderup of Minden, Kearney County, writes that at that time there was an unusually large number of Lesser Snow Geese and American Pintail ducks on the Platte River along the northern boundary of that county. Many local bird observers, he states, contend that they never have seen so many of these birds there before at this time of the year, which he regards as an encouraging indication. He states that, if adequate protection could be given by

the state at the concentration points along our streams during the proper periods, he believes that we would soon again have these birds present consistently in abundance.

Under date of March 29, Mr. Harold Turner of Bladen, Nebraska, states that a Sparrow Hawk (subsp. ?) was noted a few miles west of Norman, in Kearney County, on January 15, and that a female of this species took lodging about his farm home, located in Adams County between Holstein and Bladen, during the stormy night of March 17. He mentions also that he saw a Marsh Hawk on January 20, and several others of that species since then. On March 17, a Cooper Hawk in the immature plumage, several American Rough-legged Hawks, and an American Barn Owl were noted during a walk up Sand Creek Valley, in Adams County, the last mentioned species having been observed at close range. On March 18, in the same locality, a Red-tailed Hawk and an American Rough-legged Hawk were noted. On March 28, a very dark specimen of the Red-tailed Hawk was seen, and identified as probably a Harlan Red-tailed Hawk. Mr. Turner states that during the snow storm on February 25, a female Eastern Hairy Woodpecker appeared in his yard, and what presumably was the same bird was again seen there on March 5.

From the Omaha Nature Study Club, through Mr. L. O. Horsky, comes under date of April 12 a report on the birds observed in that vicinity since the Holiday season. On December 23, 1933, Mr. William Marsh observed a Bronzed Grackle and six Harris Sparrows at Elmwood Park. The Bronzed Grackle was subsequently seen once in January by Mrs. J. Franklyn Holly, while Harris Sparrows were seen by Miss Elizabeth Rooney on January 20 and again by Mr. Marsh on March 18. Mr. O. L. Stoltenberg noted a Western Meadowlark on his farm between Florence and Bennington on December 25. Tree Sparrows were seen by Mr. Marsh near Elmwood Park on December 31 and by Miss Mary Ellsworth at Carter Lake on March 27. An Eastern Screech Owl was noted in Elmwood Park by Mr. Marsh on January 7. A Sparrow Hawk (subsp. ?) was seen in Forest Lawn Cemetery on January 20 by Miss Mary Ellsworth. Mr. L. O. Horsky saw wintering Eastern Robins and Eastern Common Bluebirds in the Fontenelle Reserve on January 20, and the latter species were also present in Mrs. Fred Grouseman's bird sanctuary throughout the winter. Mr. Horsky noted Pine Siskins at Riverview Park on January 27, and Mr. Marsh saw them at Elmwood Park on March 4. Two of the more striking features of this winter's bird population were the abundance of Red-breasted Nuthatches in Elmwood Park, where they were observed throughout the winter subsequent to the Christmas Census by Messrs. Marsh and Horsky, and the comparative absence there of Red Crossbills, which are usually to be found in Elmwood Park when in the Omaha vicinity. The Long-eared Owls, which had been regular residents in this park for over twenty years, seem now to have disappeared, probably frightened away by the C. W. A. work on the new golf course.

Two coveys of Bob-whites were seen by Messrs. William Frenking and George Weir on a farm near Nashville, Washington County, where they were being fed, on February 6, and the farmer reported to them that about a half-dozen Eastern Robins had frequently been seen by him feeding with the Bob-whites. A pair of Eastern Purple Finches was noted by Mr. Marsh near Brownell Hall on February 11. The first seventeen days of February were decidedly above normal in temperature, and on February 14 Miss Elizabeth Rooney noted four Eastern Robins in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Mrs. J. Franklyn Holly in Keystone Park and Mrs. Fred Grouseman at her home reported hearing Western Meadowlarks on the same day. On February 17 and 19, Mr. Richard

Abhoud reported a large flock of Canada Geese on Carter Lake, and on the latter date they were walking on the ice as there was a decided change to colder weather between those dates. Beginning with the 18th the temperature for the remainder of February was decidedly below normal with snow on that date and again on the 24th and subzero temperatures on the 26th and 27th. Dr. C. A. Mitchell of Omaha reports that he saw two Red-bellied Woodpeckers near Kountze Park in Omaha on February 20.

The first five days of March averaged from 8 to 12 degrees above normal, and on March 9 Miss Mary Ellsworth reported the first migrant Eastern Robin, while Mr. Horsky saw his first migrant Eastern Robin in Elmwood Park on March 11. Mr. Marsh noted Lesser Scaups at George's Lake on March 11. On the following day, with the temperature 21 degrees above the normal, there was a migration wave of Canada Geese, Eastern Robins and Eastern Common Bluebirds. On March 15, Mr. Horsky heard his first Eastern Robin in song, and on the next day the Sparrow Hawks returned to their old haunts on his home premises. On March 19, he saw four Bronzed Grackles and on March 20 heard the first Western Meadowlark on his home grounds and the first early morning robin chorus, when the minimum temperature was at 41°, the highest for the month both before and after that date. The remainder of the month, beginning with the 22nd, was subnormal, with the exception of the 28th and 29th, and it was during this period that Miss Mary Ellsworth noted a flock of Redheads, carefully estimated at 300 birds, on March 24 on Carter Lake, of which there were still about 100 left on March 31 and about 40 on April 8. At Carter Lake on March 24 Miss Mary Ellsworth saw also thirty Lesser Scaups, four American Pintails and from 100 to 150 Northern American Coots, as well as the Northern Killdeer and Red-winged Blackbirds. Mr. Horsky noted the Northern Shrike on his home grounds on March 25, and on March 26 Mayor Roy N. Towl noted waxwings (American Bohemian ?) on his home grounds. Mayor Towl states that his family looks for the arrival of the waxwings each year, to eat their Russian cranberries. On March 27, Miss Ellsworth noted two Baldpates, twenty-five Shovelers, two Lesser Yellow-legs, two American Herring Gulls and one Eastern Belted Kingfisher. Northern Purple Martin scouts were first observed by Mr. Leonard Nichols on his martin house on March 28, and by Mr. F. J. Jodeit on his martin house on April 3. Also on March 28, Miss Marjorie Disbrow observed the first Western Mourning Dove and Miss Mary Ellsworth and Mrs. Arthur Greer in Hummel Park saw four Eastern Phoebe, six Eastern Common Bluebirds and an American Goldfinch, the latter in process of molting to summer plumage.

Mr. William Marsh saw Eastern Common Bluebirds nest-building in Elmwood Park on April 1. Mr. Horsky heard his first Western Field Sparrow on April 3. A pair of Eastern Robins had completed their nest in the yard of the Misses Emma and Mary Ellsworth on April 5. Miss Mary Ellsworth noted the arrival of the Red-eyed Eastern Towhee and Eastern Chipping Sparrow on April 7. On April 8, in addition to the forty Redheads, Miss Ellsworth saw ten Baldpates, six Lesser Scaups and fifteen Northern Killdeers.

Under date of April 1, Mrs. A. H. Jones of Hastings reports on the migration record at that place covering the first quarter of 1934. She mentions first a previously overlooked observation of the American Magpie at Homer, Dakota County, Nebraska, on December 26, 1933, by Miss Carrie Hansen of Hastings. The Hastings record proper then follows. On January 13, Mrs. E. R. Maunder noted the Common Red-shafted Flicker, and on January 14, Mrs. A. H. Staley recorded the first



Eastern Robin of the year, a singing bird. Mr. A. H. Jones noted nine Greater Prairie Chickens eight miles northeast of Minden, Kearney County, on January 19. The Harris Sparrow was seen by Mrs. A. E. Olsen on January 29. American Pintails were seen near Hastings by Dr. Laird on February 4, while Mr. A. M. Brooking noted heavy flights of these ducks on February 16, and on February 18 Miss Margaret Diemer saw thousands of them, and also a few Green-winged Teals, on the Platte River in Hall County, north of Hastings. Miss M. Caryle Sylla noted the Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker on February 11.

The Sparrow Hawk (subsp. ?) was noted by Mrs. A. E. Olsen on March 2, and a migrant Eastern Robin by Mrs. A. M. Brooking on March 3. On March 10, Mrs. A. M. Jones saw three Red-winged Blackbirds (subsp. ?) and the Misses Zetta and Nelle Rowe saw an Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The first Eastern Common Bluebird was seen by Miss Carrie Hansen on March 11, on which date she noted also a Long-eared Owl, while also on this day Mr. Vernon Taggart recorded the first Northern Killdeer, Mrs. Brooking and Miss Sylla noted large Horned Larks which they believed to be the Hoyt Horned Lark, and Mr. Addison Adams saw twelve Western Meadowlarks. Prof. John M. Moulton's ornithology class from Hastings College noted the Canvas-back and Lesser Scaup ducks on March 12. On March 14, Mrs. A. H. Jones observed Lesser Snow Geese, the American Buff-breasted Merganser and the (Migrant ?) Loggerhead Shrike. Miss Margaret Diemer, on March 18, noted the American Rough-legged Hawk, saw fifty-five Sandhill Cranes feeding in a pasture, observed some gulls identified as the Ring-billed Gull, and noted the arrival of the American Common Pipit and Eastern Meadowlark.

On March 19, Mrs. A. M. Brooking noted a Red-tailed Hawk and the Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch at Grand Island, Hall County, and on this same date Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones and Miss Martha Cousley saw seventeen Cedar Waxwings. On March 20, a fine warm day, Mr. and Mrs. Brooking flushed a covey of about fifteen Bob-whites on the road near Bladen, Webster County, and Mrs. Brooking saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker, and heard its rasping call, in the timber along the Republican River south of Naponee, Franklin County, which is believed to be the farthest west that this species has yet been recorded in Nebraska. Canada Geese (subsp. ?), Blue Geese and White-fronted Geese were all noted by Mrs. A. H. Jones on March 25, and the Shoveller was also seen on that date, as well as the (Saskatchewan ?) Horned Lark. Mr. Winston Jones recorded the Western Mourning Dove for March 26. Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones found the Tufted Titmouse and Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch at Nelson, Nuckolls County, on March 27. This record of the Tufted Titmouse is a little farther to the west than the observation of the species at Oak, in the same county, on January 21, 1933, by Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Brooking (*antea*, i, p. 44), and about the same distance west as Mrs. Glen Chapman's observation of the species south of Aurora, Hamilton County, on October 22, 1933 (*antea*, ii, p. 12). All of these westernmost records for the Tufted Titmouse are from along the 98th meridian. Five Bronzed Grackles arrived in Mrs. A. H. Jones' yard on March 28. On March 29, Mr. A. H. Jones saw several hundred Sandhill Cranes feeding in a field near Kearney, Buffalo County, and on April 1, Mrs. A. H. Jones, with Miss Sylla, saw a flock of seventy-six Sandhill Cranes fly low over her house in Hastings, calling loudly enough that their calls were heard inside the house. A Greater Prairie Chicken was seen near the Fort Kearny road on March 29. On April 1, Mrs. Brooking and Miss Sylla found Northern Killdeers common in Heartwell Park and noted numerous Loggerhead Shrikes. On April 2, Song Sparrows were noted by Mrs.

A. M. Brooking and Mrs. Jesse Marian. On April 4, the flickers arrived in full force; many of both the Common Red-shafted and Northern Yellow-shafted species were reported in the parks by Mrs. A. M. Jones and Mrs. J. D. Fuller.

Mrs. Jones further reports that on January 21 she and Mr. Jones noted a large flock of Greater Prairie Chickens five miles west of Thedford, Thomas County. They counted sixty-six birds in the flock, which they estimated to contain a total of about seventy-five individuals, as the birds flew rather low across the road ahead of them. On a lake near Alliance, on January 23, Mrs. Jones saw four male and four female Common Mallards. On March 14 she and Mr. Jones were over-night guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Nelson, at the Nebraska National Forest Reserve near Halsey, Thomas County, of which Mr. Nelson is Superintendent. Early on the morning of the 15th she was awakened by a bird song which she thought bore some resemblance to that of the Red-eyed Vireo, but was much more beautiful. After hearing the song repeated many times, she located and identified the songster as the Townsend Solitaire, of which there were two individuals in the cedars near the house. When not fitting about and singing, they were busy feeding in their characteristic manner. Mr. Nelson informed Mrs. Jones that these birds had been singing about the Reserve since about March 1. On this same date Mrs. Jones noted the Northern Pine Siskin in the Reserve, and also on March 15 at the edge of one of the lakes in the sand hills near Alliance, she identified twenty-four American Herring Gulls, in company with thousands of American Pintail ducks. On March 18, Mrs. Jones saw a Greater Prairie Chicken near Sidney, Cheyenne County, and on that day near the same place saw also eight American Magpies. Hundreds of Sandhill Cranes were seen in flight on the same day near Cozad, Dawson County, and also great numbers of male Red-winged Blackbirds in the marshy ditches along the roadside, while hundreds of American Pintails were feeding in the corn fields.

Under date of April 14, Mrs. A. M. Brooking reports that on April 7 she, with Mr. Brooking, visited the Platte River in Hall County, north of Hastings, and in following along the south side of the river encountered large flocks of Lesser Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes. But the thrill of the day was when near to the Wood River bridge a flock of thirteen Whooping Cranes were sighted flying very high. They came down to the river, affording an excellent view of them.

In the last number of the *Review* (*antea*, p. 18) mention was made of a freshly shot male Short-eared Owl that was brought to Mr. G. E. Hudson at the Zoology Department of the University on December 2, 1933. On January 6, 1934, another freshly shot male of this same species was found dead in the road by Miss Florence Schrepf, and was also brought to Mr. Hudson for preservation. Dr. W. J. Himmel of Lincoln reports noting the following resident species during January: Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker (26th), Eastern Hairy Woodpecker (27th and February 14), Northern Downy Woodpecker (6th), Northern Blue Jay (27th), Prairie Horned Lark (26th, and February 14), Eastern Crow (6th), Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee (5th), Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch (17th), Eastern Cardinal (5th), Eastern Slate-colored Junco (6th), and Tree Sparrow (17th). On January 6, and again on February 11, Dr. Himmel noted a Sparrow Hawk (Eastern ?), and on January 6 two Short-eared Owls. On this same date he noted a flock of geese. On January 27 he saw about fifty American Pintails sitting on the ice of a pond north of Lincoln on 27th Street, and at this same place saw about 100 of these ducks on February 10 and thirty-four of them on February 14. On February 11, Mr. Hudson saw about ninety of these ducks, of which about one-third were females, sitting on the ice.

Mr. E. F. Powell reports that he observed a male Bronzed Grackle in the garden at his home at 1136 South 40th Street, on February 4, and Dr. Himmel likewise noted an individual of this species on February 17. Dr. Himmel noted two Marsh Hawks on February 10 and nine Western Meadowlarks on February 14. On February 11, Mr. Hudson saw an American Rough-legged Hawk, several Prairie Horned Larks, numerous Eastern Crows, several Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees, four Eastern Cardinals and numerous Tree Sparrows. On February 18, in company with Mr. W. E. Beed, Mr. Hudson camped out over night at Rock Bluff, Cass County, on the Missouri River. At this location they noted two Eastern Red-tailed Hawks and an immature male Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, and collected one of the hawks, an adult male, and the flicker. Other species noted by them there were one Western Mourning Dove, several Northern Downy Woodpeckers, one Northern Blue Jay, about twenty-five Eastern Crows, an abundance of Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees (a male collected), one Tufted Titmouse, about twenty-five Rusty Blackbirds, numerous Eastern Cardinals, a towhee somewhat doubtfully identified as the Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, numerous Eastern Slate-colored Juncos, several Shufeldt Oregon Juncos, an abundance of Tree Sparrows, and numerous Harris Sparrows.

The first Eastern Robin and Eastern Common Bluebird (male) were seen on March 4, on which date Prof. Don B. Whelan noted more flocks of geese. The first Eastern Robins were seen in town at Lincoln on March 5, on which date they were noted by several observers. Dr. Himmel noted eighty-four American Pintails on North 27th Street on March 5, while on March 11, according to Mr. G. E. Hudson, these ducks were present at Capitol Beach to the total number of several thousand birds, mostly males, but including also many females, along with a few (about ten per cent) of Common Mallards of both sexes, four male and two female Shovellers and four male Lesser Scaups. There were also present twelve Blue Geese in the adult plumage. On March 12, Dr. Himmel noted ten male and nine female Common Mallards, a male Shoveller, three male Lesser Scaups and about thirty Red-winged Blackbirds. On March 17, Mr. Hudson noted about 125 Lesser Snow Geese in a flock, along with about seventy-five Blue Geese, and collected one immature bird of the latter species. Ducks noted on this date included about 100 American Pintails, representing both sexes, about eight Green-winged Teals, about a half-dozen Redheads, and about eight Lesser Scaups. Other birds noted on March 17 by Mr. Hudson included an (Eastern ?) Sparrow Hawk, a Short-eared Owl and numerous Western Meadowlarks, several of which were singing.

On March 25, Mr. Hudson noted as new arrivals about thirty White-fronted Geese, about six Baldpates (both sexes represented), three male Northern Ruddy Ducks, four Northern Killdeers, two gulls somewhat doubtfully identified as the Ring-billed, the Eastern Common Meadowlark (one heard singing) and the Red-winged Blackbird, of which latter species a male was definitely identified and heard singing, while several flocks of from thirty to sixty blackbirds, too far off to identify, may also have included Red-wings. Other species seen on March 25 included about twenty Common Mallards, 300 to 400 American Pintails, about fifteen Green-winged Teals, a pair of Shovellers, about thirty Lesser Scaups (all these ducks including both sexes), an American Rough-legged Hawk, two Marsh Hawks, two Short-eared Owls, a very shy shrike which may have been a Northern Shrike, numerous Western Meadowlarks, and several Tree Sparrows. The arrival of the Western Mourning Dove was noted by Prof. Raymond Roberts on March 26. These birds disappeared with the storm of March 29 to 31, but reappeared in force on April 1. Dr. J. P. Williams reported seeing a Cedar Waxwing in the trees in his yard at 2930 Van Dorn Street about

March 28, and Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon saw a small flock of them in her yard at 1319 South 23rd Street on April 1.

On April 1, on a trip to King's Pond and then to Capitol Beach, Mr. Hudson noted a flock of geese containing twenty-five White-fronted Geese, about 100 Lesser Snow Geese, and about fifty Blue Geese, in a wheat field near Capitol Beach. Separately from these, he noted three Lesser Canada Geese, about five White-fronted Geese, and about twenty Lesser Snow Geese. On this day he observed also about five Common Mallards, about twenty-five Baldpates, about 300 American Pintails, about forty Green-winged Teals, about sixty Shovellers, two male Red-heads, about sixty Lesser Scaups, a scap duck with a *greenish* head, clearly seen reflected in the sun, which may have been a Greater Scaup, about six Northern Killdeers, three Short-eared Owls, a Western Burrowing Owl that flew out from under a culvert at Capitol Beach, five gulls identified as probably the Ring-billed, and two shrikes identified as probably the Migrant Loggerhead Shrike. The arrival of the Purple Martin was reported on April 2 by Prof. and Mrs. Don B. Whelan, who saw them at their home at 3855 Orchard Street. Although the first migrant Red-winged Blackbirds had been noted on March 12, by April 1 these birds were present abundantly in the Lincoln vicinity, as noted by M. H. Swenk, large flocks of them roosting at night in the trees in Wyuka Cemetery, along with an almost equal abundance of Bronzed Grackles. On April 3 and 4, many Sparrow Hawks of both sexes, several of them rather definitely identified at close range as the Eastern Sparrow Hawk, were observed between Lincoln and Omaha by M. H. Swenk, who noted also a Cooper Hawk, two or three American Rough-legged Hawks, and several Northern Killdeers and Western Mourning Doves. On April 5, on a trip to King's Pond on the Little Salt and then to Capitol Beach, Mr. Hudson noted nine Lesser Canada Geese (a female collected), about seventy-five Lesser Snow Geese, and about thirty Blue Geese. New arrivals on that day included a male Gadwall, about twenty Blue-winged Teals, seven cranes identified as probably the Sandhill Crane in a pasture on Little Salt, a Wilson Snipe, eight Lesser Yellowlegs, and one each of the Pectoral Sandpiper and Baird Sandpiper. Other water birds noted by Mr. Hudson on this trip were about fifteen Baldpates, about 100 American Pintails, about fifty Green-winged Teals, about 150 Shovellers, about fifty Lesser Scaups, numerous Northern Killdeers, and two gulls identified as probably the Ring-billed. Other birds noted as new arrivals were the Brewer Blackbird (about twenty, apparently all males), and the Eastern Cowbird (seven). Nine Short-eared Owls were flushed from the grass along Little Salt, numerous Saskatchewan Horned Larks were seen, including a juvenile bird that could have been caught, several Loggerhead Shrikes identified as probably the Migrant, several Eastern Common Meadowlarks heard singing along Little Salt (with the Western Meadowlark heard also singing at the same time from the higher ground), and several Tree Sparrows.

Another migrant added for Lincoln by Mr. Hudson on April 5 was the Eastern Phoebe. On April 8, he added the Leconte Sparrow (one seen) and the Western Field Sparrow. Other species seen on April 8 were six Lesser Snow Geese, about twenty-five Baird Sandpipers, and seven Short-eared Owls. Fresh Eastern Crow eggs were likewise found on April 8. On April 14, Mr. Hudson noted eight Franklin Gulls and one Common Lincoln Sparrow, as new arrivals, and on this day observed also Great Horned Owls, three Northern Purple Martins, two Tufted Titmice (heard), and several Harris Sparrows. A nest of the Eastern Common Bluebird with fresh eggs was found, as well as several Eastern Crow nests, with fresh to well incubated eggs. Prof. Raymond Roberts noted the Eastern Chipping Sparrow on April 15, and Northern Purple Martins were common by that date.

## HERE AND THERE WITH THE N. O. U. MEMBERS

The last year of the N. O. U. has been a very unusual one in the number of members it has lost by death. The passing of Mrs. A. T. Hill of Hastings on July 14, 1933, of Mr. Frederick G. Collins on November 13, 1933, and of Dr. Robert H. Wolcott on January 23, 1934, have already been sorrowfully recorded. We regret that we must now also announce the decease of Mr. Thomas D. Griffin of Hardy, Nuckolls County, on December 6, 1933. Mrs. Griffin joined the N. O. U. in 1924, and Mr. Griffin became a member with her some years later. Mr. Griffin had a very genuine interest in bird life, and members of the N. O. U. will recall the notes that he sent in from time to time for our *Letter of Information*. He will be much missed by the Nuckolls County group of bird students, especially, and we are sure the members of the N. O. U. join with us in extending sincere sympathy to Mrs. Griffin at this time.

Under date of March 5, Mr. Dana Anderson of St. Edward, Boone County, Nebraska, writes as follows: "You know how difficult it is to get an Eastern Cardinal visitor in this part of Nebraska. We had a male living and roosting in my bird garden. Its favorite roosting place was in a trimmed cedar. It was caught, evidently at night, in this favorite roost, and nothing was left but the bill, feet and some feathers. Since then no cats have been getting away on my place."

On the evening of April 7, 1934, ten bird lovers and students met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Tout and organized the North Platte Bird Club. Mr. Tout was elected as President, Mr. J. C. Hollman as Vice-President, and Mrs. A. H. Bivans as Secretary-Treasurer, of the new organization. As most members of the N. O. U. know, Mr. Tout has from its start been actively interested in our organization; in fact he is now, with Mrs. Tout, Prof. Bruner and your Secretary-Treasurer, one of the four surviving active Charter members of the N. O. U., and served us as President in 1905-06. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tout (*nee* Miss Nell Harrison) joined the N. O. U. in 1900. Mrs. Tout, as well as Mr. Tout, has kept up her interest in bird study through the years, and has given many talks on birds before women's clubs, schools and other organizations. Miss Rebecca Tout, their daughter, also helped in organizing the club, as she is both active and interested in bird study. Mr. Hollman is an attorney of North Platte, who became interested in bird study when taking a course in ornithology at the University of Iowa about twenty years ago, and Mrs. Hollman subsequently became interested in bird study through contagion. Mrs. Bivans also became interested in bird study through the college courses which she took. Others who assisted in forming the organization were Miss Ruth Moon, a teacher in the North Platte schools, who previously had been a member of the Bruner Bird Club of Lincoln; Miss Frances Kimball, another teacher in the North Platte schools, who became interested in bird study through her work as a Campfire Guardian; Mrs. Carl Collister, whose mother was an active member of the Brooking Bird Club at Hastings before Mrs. Collister left there; and Mr. Harry Weakley, who became interested in bird study while a student at the University of Nebraska, later causing Mrs. Weakley to become interested also. Others also have had considerable experience in the study of birds in the field. Mr. Tout says that Charter membership in the North Platte Bird Club will be left open for a month, and then closed. Monthly meetings, with a program at each meeting, substituting field trips for meetings in the summer months, are planned. He further states that it is the intention to have every family represented in the membership of the N. O. U. as soon as they become members of the North Platte Bird Club. We extend our greetings and best wishes to our newest local bird club, and hope and believe that it will accomplish a great deal.

PRINCIPAL ORNITHOLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS OF  
THE UNITED STATES

The Nuttall Ornithological Club. Organized in 1873. Publishes *Memoirs* occasionally. Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The American Ornithologists' Union. Organized September 26, 1883. Publishes *The Auk* quarterly. Subscription four dollars a year. Editor: Dr. Witmer Stone, Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Wilson Ornithological Club. Organized December 3, 1888. Publishes *The Wilson Bulletin* quarterly. Subscription one dollar and fifty cents a year (in the United States) and two dollars (outside of the United States). Editor: Dr. T. C. Stephens, Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa.

The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. Organized February 3, 1890. Publishes *Cassinia* annually. Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Cooper Ornithological Club. Organized June 22, 1893. Publishes *The Condor* bimonthly and *Pacific Coast Avifauna* irregularly. Subscription three dollars a year (in the United States), three dollars and twenty-five cents (outside of the United States). Editor: Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. Organized December 16, 1899. Publishes *The Nebraska Bird Review* quarterly. Subscription one dollar a year. Editor: Prof. Myron H. Swenk, 1410 North 37th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The National Association of Audubon Societies. Organized in 1902. Publishes *Bird-Lore* bimonthly. Subscription one dollar and fifty cents (in the United States), one dollar and seventy-five cents (outside of the United States). Editor: Dr. Frank M. Chapman, American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

The Essex County (Massachusetts) Ornithological Club. Organized in 1918. Publishes *Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club*. Salem, Massachusetts.

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Organized February 28, 1923. Publishes *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly. Subscription one dollar (in Iowa) or fifty cents (outside of Iowa) a year. Editor: Mr. Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

The Tennessee Ornithological Society. Publishes *The Migrant* quarterly. Subscription sixty cents a year. Editor: Mr. George B. Woodring, 1414 Stratton Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

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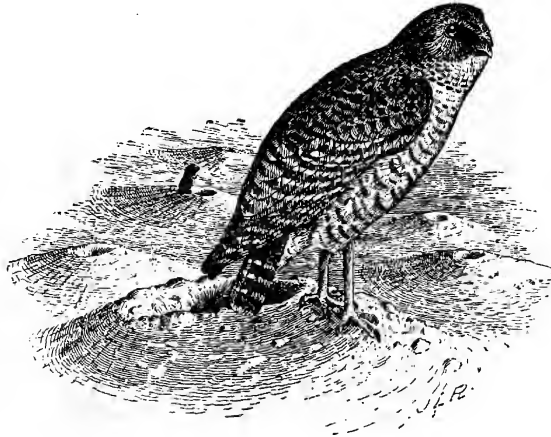
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## THE INTERIOR CAROLINA PAROQUET AS A NEBRASKA BIRD

By MYRON H. SWENK

During the territorial days of Nebraska, flocks of the interior subspecies (*Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*) of the Carolina Paroquet occurred in the heavily wooded bottoms and on the wooded islands of the Missouri River, along the eastern edge of the state. They were not migratory, but were of a roving disposition and often wandered in flocks for a considerable distance from their breeding and sleeping haunts, sometimes appearing in the trees in and about the early settlements along the river. By the time Nebraska had become a state (1867) they had completely disappeared from this region, never to return, for the bird is now extinct. This is especially unfortunate, since this species was the only parrot native to the United States, except for the Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachrylyncha*) of Mexico, which casually reaches the mountains of southern Arizona.

All of the naturalists that early visited this region noted these brilliant little parrots. William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, recorded that "*Paroqueti* is seen as high as the Mahar (= Omaha) village" ("Codex N" in: *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, edited by R. G. Thwaites, vii, p. 122; 1904), which means that these birds were seen along the Nebraska shore between July 11, 1804, when the party passed latitude 40° N., and the following August 19, when it left the old Omaha Indian village, located near the present site of Homer, Dakota County, and possibly also between September 4 and 10, 1806, on the return journey. Thomas Say next states that the "Caroline paroquet" occurred at Engineer Cantonment, which was located in southeastern Washington County near the present Fort Calhoun, and was "seen several times during the winter (of 1819-20)" (*Long's Exped.*, i, pp. 265 and 270; 1823). On May 14, 1834, Maximilian von Wied saw some of these parrots on his return trip down the Missouri River, at the mouth of Weeping Water Creek, in Cass County, and below it in Otoe and Nemaha Counties (*Reise in das Innere Nord-Amerika*, ii, p. 345; 1839). In 1843 on his trip up the Missouri River, Audubon noted "Parakeets" several times — on May 7 they were "plentiful" opposite Richardson and Nemaha Counties; on May 8 they were again seen opposite Otoe County; on May 9 at Bellevue in Sarpy County; and again on May 10, a little below the Council Bluff (= Fort Calhoun, Washington County) at which latter place they were still "plentiful" (*Audubon and his Journals*, i, pp. 476, 477 and 481; 1897). None of these early naturalists seemed to regard this then common paroquet as particularly important, and so far as can be learned none of them collected and preserved any specimens from the Nebraska region.

For the first specimens collected and preserved in this region we are indebted to the activities of Lieutenant Gouverneur K. Warren, Topographical Engineer of the U. S. Army, and Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden, his scientific assistant, who, on April 16, 1856, started up the Missouri

River for Fort Pierre in Captain Throckmorton's steamboat *Genoa*. This party passed the Kansas-Nebraska line and the mouth of the Nemaha River on April 23, and the following day reached the "Bald Island" of Lewis and Clark in the Missouri. There, or close by, on April 24 and 25, Lieutenant Warren and Dr. Hayden collected a series of these paroquets, as recorded by Spencer F. Baird in 1858 (*Reports of Explorations and Surveys of a Railroad Route to the Pacific Ocean*, ix, p. 68). According to this record, Lieutenant Warren and Dr. Hayden each shot a female specimen on "Bald Island" on April 24 (Nos. 4617 and 4609, U. S. N. M., respectively), and Dr. Hayden shot two more females and a male there on April 25 (Nos. 4610, 4612 and 4613, respectively). Two females and a male shot by Dr. Hayden (Nos. 4611, "4618" ? =4619 and 4614, respectively) and a male shot by Lieutenant Warren (No. 4615) were also taken on "Bald Island", and since the party was there only on April 24 and 25, reaching the mouth of the Platte River on April 26, these four must also have been collected on April 24 or 25. A male (No. 4616) and a female (No. 4618), both collected on April 25 by Dr. Hayden, if not taken on "Bald Island" must necessarily have been taken somewhere close by. A female (No. 4608) taken by Lieutenant Warren labeled simply "Nebraska", measured "fresh", bore the original No. 28, which came between Nos. 4611 (26) and 4614 (27), both collected on "Bald Island", and Nos. 4616 (29), 4612 (30) and 4613 (31), the latter two, at least, collected on "Bald Island", so with little doubt was taken on one or the other of these same two days. One may fairly conclude, therefore, that Lieutenant Warren collected three and Dr. Hayden nine of these paroquets, on or near "Bald Island", on April 24 and 25, 1856.

Now, just where was this "Bald Island"? Judging from the probable progress of the steamboat on April 23, it must have been located at about latitude 40° 30', or somewhere near the present Nemaha-Otoe County line. Doubt on the matter is dispelled, however, on consulting the map accompanying Lieutenant Warren's official report (*Preliminary Report of Explorations in Nebraska and Dakota in the Years 1855, 1856 and 1857* in: *Presidents' Messages and Documents, Report of the Secretary of War*, Appendix, December, 1858. Reprinted in separate form, from Office of Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, August, 1875, pp. 1-125). There it is seen to be a large "island" then located in a deep, rounded "horseshoe" bend to the eastward of the main channel of the Missouri River, a few miles above the present location of the town of Peru, Nemaha County. When Nebraska was organized as a territory, in 1854, this area, which had water practically only on the north, east and south sides, was included therein, the main channel of the Missouri constituting the eastern boundary of Nebraska Territory. At the flood of 1865 the river effected a cutoff of a part of this "island" and transferred it to the Missouri side, though it still remains legally a part of Nebraska. By that time it had come to be known as McKissock Island, which name it still bears, and a new island that was formed in the new channel to the west of it, at the time of the cut-off, became Hog-Thief Island, which before 1890 had fused with McKissock Island through the abandonment by the river of its eastern channel (*Cf.*, Bengston, Meanders of the Missouri River and their Effects, *Rept. Nebraska State Board of Agriculture* for 1908, pp. 362-366).

Just how far up the Missouri these paroquets occurred is uncertain. In 1862, Dr. Hayden wrote that it "was very abundant along the thickly wooded bottoms as far up the Missouri as Fort Leavenworth, possibly as high as the mouth of the Platte, but never seen above that point" (*Trans. Amer. Phil. Soc.*, xii, p. 154). However, Maximilian states that in 1833 he noted this bird along the Missouri at Fort Clark, in the present Oliver County, North Dakota, and north of the 47th parallel, and that his pilot Mr. Gardner noted them at the mouth of the Niobrara River on the return journey, May 5, 1834 (*op. cit.*, p. 345). On the return

journey of the Audubon party, J. G. Bell reported that he "heard Parakeets" on September 16, 1843, as far north as a little below Old Fort George, Stanley County, central South Dakota (*op. cit.*, ii, p. 165). Dr. Guy C. Rich, formerly of Sioux City, Iowa, has reported that "many years ago the paroquets were noticed just across the river from Sioux City, in (Dakota County) Nebraska. Some were captured and kept as cage pets" (Anderson, *Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci.*, xi, p. 271).

Of the last days of the Interior Carolina Paroquet in Nebraska, Ex-Governor Robert W. Furnas has left us an interesting record. He states that when he came to Brownville, in Nemaha County, in the spring of 1856, there was an abundance of these birds in that vicinity. Their home and breeding place was on an island (very probably "Bald Island") in the Missouri River ten miles north of Brownville, where they nested in the hollows of old trees on the island. Many of the young ones were taken from their nests by the boys, and raised by hand for pets. In one season some young men raised a hundred or more of them for sale, sending them to other states. They could not be taught to talk. They often came into the trees in and about the town, and were very noisy and quite tame. During the year 1866, or thereabout, they all suddenly disappeared and were never since seen or known in that vicinity (*Proc. N. O. U.*, iii, p. 107; 1902).

This bird was one early marked for complete extermination. From the first its gaily colored plumage caused it persistently to be killed in large numbers for its feathers and to be heavily trapped by bird-catchers for pets. Then when these unfortunate birds revealed an injurious fondness for cultivated fruits and corn in the milk, the pretext was at hand for killing them wantonly, especially as their flesh, though dark, was not unpalatable when served as a pot pie. It was very easy to slaughter these paroquets, for if one bird from a flock was wounded, the others would devotedly hover around the injured bird until the entire flock was killed, as was usually the case. Sometimes forty or more birds would be killed with a few discharges of the gun. Small wonder, then, that as fast as civilization advanced into its range the paroquet disappeared.

As early as 1832 Audubon noted that these birds were not as abundant as formerly, and that where they had been abundant a quarter of a century previously they were then scarcely to be found at all. By 1840 they were practically gone in West Virginia and Ohio. They disappeared from Indiana about 1858 and from Illinois about 1861. The Colorado birds were gone by about 1862. In Kansas they were gone by about 1867, and during the years 1875-1880 they disappeared from Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Their last stand was made in Missouri and along the Arkansas River and its tributaries in Arkansas and central Oklahoma, but by 1890 they were practically gone in these localities also.

By this time it was everywhere recognized that these birds were on the very verge of extinction. In 1891 Hasbrouck predicted their extermination by 1911 (*Auk*, viii, p. 369); in 1892 Butler stated that their extinction was but a matter of a few years (*Auk*, ix, p. 49); and in 1895 Bendire predicted their extermination by 1900 (*Life Histories of N. A. Birds*, ii, p. 1). The accuracy of these predictions was well borne out. The very last records of living Interior Carolina Paroquets are of lone individuals shot at Atchison, Kansas, in 1904, and seen at Notch, Stone County, Missouri, in 1905 (*vide* Widman, *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, p. 116; 1907). In 1904 Chapman found the Eastern Carolina Paroquet locally present about Lake Okechobee, Florida (*Bird Lore*, vi, p. 103), but it, also, apparently has subsequently disappeared.

These paroquets were sociable birds, and, until they were on the verge of extinction one was rarely seen alone. During the warmer months they were most active and noisy during the morning, before seven o'clock, and in the evening, after five o'clock, when they roamed about in compact flocks, originally of hundreds of birds but toward the end of six to twenty birds, foraging for food. The common call notes consisted of a loud, shrill series of rapidly uttered, discordant cries, given incessantly when the birds were in flight, resembling "qui'-qui', qui', qui', qui', qui-i-i-i", with a rising inflection on each *i* and the last cry drawn out. Another call resembled the shrill cry of a goose and was frequently uttered for minutes at a time. When at rest they had a low, conversational chatter. Their flight was remarkably swift and graceful, and more or less undulating like a woodpecker's, but even the largest and most compact flocks were able to fly through dense timber with ease. When feeding they moved about on the slenderest stems, frequently hanging head downwards or swinging themselves, with the aid of their powerful beaks, from one branch to another. On the ground they were clumsy. During the heat of the day they rested in the shade of the thick foliage of trees, with which their plumage blended so as to make them very difficult to find, especially since at such times they were silent. At night they retired to their regular roosting places, usually in the hollow of some large sycamore, where they suspended themselves to the rough inner wall of the cavity by means of their sharp claws and hooked beak. During the winter they spent much of their time in these retreats in the hollows of trees, and in extreme weather sometimes perished there. They nested in a hollow or cavity in some large sycamore, oak or other tree, the eggs being deposited on the chips at the bottom of the cavity. Their eggs were about two, white, faintly tinged with yellowish, glossy, rather pointed ovate, with the shell thick and deeply pitted, and measuring about 35 by 27 mm. The eggs were usually laid in the spring.

The food of the Interior Carolina Paroquet, though all vegetable, was highly varied, and they seemed to delight in the fruits of spiny or thorny plants. One of the most relished foods was the seeds of the cocklebur (*Xanthium canadense*), and they fed also on the seeds of the sand-bur grass (*Cenchrus tribuloides*) and of the various species of thistles (*Cirsium*). In the fall they ate the seeds of the honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) and the tender buds and fruit of the osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*). In the spring they ate the buds of the red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and birch (*Betula* spp.). During the summer they ate much fruit, especially mulberries, wild grapes, hackberries and pawpaws, and, after the planting of cultivated apple orchards, were likely to visit them and peck out the apple seeds in the fall, sometimes doing injury in this way. Corn in the milk was also sometimes injured, but not extensively. Other favorite items of food were the seed balls of the sycamore and beech and pecan nuts. In the South cypress seeds were much eaten.

Prior to 1913 all of the paroquets of the eastern United States were considered to belong to one form, *Conuropsis carolinensis*, but in that year Mr. Outram Bangs found that the paroquets which formerly ranged over the interior of the United States, from Illinois to eastern Colorado and south to Texas, had the green color of a more bluish cast and the yellow color paler than in the paroquets from the South Atlantic coast region, whereupon he named the western birds *C. carolinensis interior*, selecting as the type of the new subspecies one of the specimens from "Bald Island" (= McKissock Island), Nebraska, collected there by Lieutenant Warren's party in 1856 (*Proc. New England Zool. Club*, iv, p. 94). Three years later, however, Mr. Robert Ridgway showed that Mr. Bangs was misled in deciding that his single adult specimen from Louisiana was referable to the Atlantic coast form, since the supposed Florida speci-

men with which he compared it without doubt came from some locality in the interior of the country, and the birds formerly inhabiting Louisiana really belonged to the interior form, and not to typical *carolinensis* (Bull. 50, U. S. N. M., vii, pp. 147-150). As a result, Gmelin's name *Psittacus ludovicianus* (*Syst. Nat.*, i, p. 347), based on Louisiana birds, had to supplant Bangs' name *interior*, and the type locally of the interior subspecies was transferred to Louisiana. As now understood, the Interior Carolina Paroquet formerly inhabited the entire wooded portion of the Mississippi Valley, from eastern Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi north in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana, casually to the southern parts of Wisconsin and Michigan, the shore of Lake Erie in Ohio and western New York, and west to eastern Oklahoma and Kansas, southeastern Colorado and extreme eastern Nebraska. The Eastern Carolina Paroquet formerly occurred throughout Florida, north along the Atlantic Coast to Virginia and west to Georgia and Alabama, casually as far north as Pennsylvania and Maryland, and casually to New York.

Early this year (January 24, 1934), the writer corresponded with Mr. P. A. DuMont of Des Moines, Iowa, regarding the possibility that these Warren-Hayden specimens of 1856 might form "preserved specimen" records of this bird that might be satisfactory for the exacting requirements of that group of ornithologists that would otherwise, absurdly enough, deny the species a place on the Nebraska-Missouri-Iowa state lists. Mr. DuMont on June 18 wrote the U. S. National Museum, regarding the present whereabouts of these specimens, and on June 21 Mr. J. H. Riley, Assistant Curator of Birds, sent him the following interesting reply:

"There were originally eleven\* specimens of paroquets received through Lt. Warren, all presumably from Bald Island. The locality of three of these is in doubt, however, as it was not so specified in the catalogue.\*\* Baird, Pacific Railroad Reports, vol. 9, 1858, p. 68, gives 12 specimens, but one of this number is duplicated and the specimen marked 'fresh', and it may not have been saved. Three of his numbers are also not definite as to locality, one simply marked 'Nebraska' and other two blank. Of the eleven specimens only one skin remains in the study series of the National Museum, though a few may have been used in an old mounted group of which the individual data have been lost. Seven were exchanged or given away. Four were sent to Verreaux, Paris, two to the University of Michigan, and one to Dr. Henry Bryant, (this) later becoming the property of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and the type of *Conuropsis carolinensis interior* Bangs, Proc. New England Zool. Club, vol. 4, 1913, p. 94. The skin remaining in the study series is a typical *Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*."

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\*However, in his "catalogue of the collections in geology and natural history, obtained in Nebraska and portions of Kansas during several expeditions under your (Lt. Warren's) command" (*op. cit.*, p. 95), Dr. Hayden lists the number of specimens of "*Conurus carolinensis*" collected as twelve, agreeing with the Baird list.

\*\*But see the discussion of these specimens in a preceding paragraph of this article.

## GENERAL NOTES

**A Recent Nebraska Record of the American Brant.**—On or about October 7, 1930, Mr. William Lemburg of Boelus, Nebraska, shot what he recognized as an unusually-colored goose while hunting on the Platte River near Kearney, Buffalo County. He mounted the specimen, which was recently examined by Mr. C. A. Black of Kearney, and myself, and we agree in identifying it as an immature American Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*). The head and neck are brownish gray, without any whitish streaks on the neck, the white edgings of the wing coverts are unusually prominent, and the very small black bill has the culmen only 31 mm. long. We estimate the total length to have been about 575 mm. The wing measures 312 mm., the tarsus 64 mm., and the middle toe 51 mm. As far as I know, this is the second definite record for this species, based on a specimen preserved. An adult of this species taken near Phillips, Hamilton County, Nebraska, November 10, 1916, is now preserved as a mounted specimen in the Hastings Municipal Museum.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**A Summer Record for the American Bohemian Waxwing in Nebraska.**—On June 6, 1931, I had a flock of waxwings in the early cherries at my home. I identified them as the American Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*). The white markings on their primaries were very prominent, the wax-like tips on the secondaries were plain, and they gave a hissing note. On reporting them, Dr. Frank M. Chapman suggested that I might have been mistaken, and that the birds were really Cedar Waxwings, as the American Bohemian Waxwing would be uncommon in this locality on that date. However, on the morning of April 12, 1934, on investigating a weak, lisping sound in the oaks, I discovered a flock of about twenty or twenty-five Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). They stayed about all day and disappeared the next morning sometime after eight o'clock. They were very trim and lovely, and while the wax-like tips on the secondaries were plain, as with the larger species, there was no suggestion of white markings on the wings. I am now quite satisfied in my own mind that the birds seen on June 6, 1931, were really the American Bohemian Waxwing.—MRS. PAUL T. HEINEMAN, *Plattsmouth, Nebr.*

**A January Assemblage of Juncos in Scotts Bluff County.**—On January 28, 1934, a sunny, still day, with another member of our local Bird Club I went to a favorite place which we call "Young's ice house". It is cut-over ground, with a stream of running water through it. The birds were thronging the trees and bushes, and distributed through a large weed patch, most of them singing. At this spot we listed all five of the Nebraska species of juncos, viz., the White-winged Junco, the Eastern Slate-colored Junco, the Shufeldt Oregon Junco, the Pink-sided Junco and even the Gray-headed Junco. Along with these juncos were White-crowned Sparrows, Gambel Sparrows, hundreds of Tree Sparrows, and Song Sparrows. I never had seen the White-crowned Sparrow in the winter before, my earliest previous date for it in the last twelve years being April 1, 1927.—MRS. J. W. HALL, *Mitchell, Nebr.*

**Returns on Banded Harris Sparrows.**—We have been notified by the Biological Survey at Washington, D. C., that a Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) that we banded here on April 4, 1929, with No. 344861, was captured November 25, 1933, by Lyle Nichols, at Braman, Oklahoma; and also that a Harris Sparrow that we banded here on October 22, 1933, with No. H62901, was captured December 2, 1933, by William Allen, at Loveland, Oklahoma. Our records show that we had the latter individual in our traps on January 10, 1934.—MISSES SUSIE and AONES CALLAWAY, *Fairbury, Nebr.*

**Additions to the List of Logan County Birds.**—Since we listed 136 species of birds for Logan County in the April number of the *Review* (*antea*, ii, pp. 31-36), we have identified nineteen additional species for the county in 1934, bringing the list up to 155 species. The additions are as follows:

1. Sora (*Porzana carolina*). First seen May 14. Summer resident. May nest here.
2. Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). First seen May 20. Common migrant.
3. Least Sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*). First seen April 29. Common migrant.
4. Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus* subsp.?). First seen May 27. Uncommon migrant.
5. Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*). First seen May 27. Uncommon migrant.
6. Forster Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). First seen June 10. Common migrant. May possibly nest here.
7. Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*). First seen May 6. Summer resident. Probably nests here.
8. Northern Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*). Three seen June 2. Rare straggler.
9. Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata* subsp.?). One seen May 2. Rare migrant.
10. Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis* subsp.?). One seen March 30. Probably an uncommon migrant.
11. Northern Bell Vireo (*Vireo bellii bellii*). First seen May 20. Uncommon migrant.
12. Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus* subsp.?). First seen May 9. Common summer resident. Nests here.
13. Eastern Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla*). Two seen May 5. Uncommon migrant.
14. Alaska (?) Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva* ? *rubiginosa*). A dark-colored bird, believed to represent this form, was seen in migration, May 2.
15. Northern Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni auduboni*). First seen May 7. Common in migration.
16. Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). One seen May 23. Uncommon migrant.
17. MacGillivray Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*). One seen May 9. Rare migrant.
18. Western Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus confinis*). First seen April 18. Very common summer resident. Nests here.
19. Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Several seen in a swampy area of about five acres along the Loup River north of Stapleton, July 1. They were singing and occasionally sitting on top of the rushes. Probably they were nesting. That is the only place we have seemed to be able to locate them.

—MR. and MRS. EARL W. GLANDON, Stapleton, Nebr.

**The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Eastern Whip-poor-will in Adams County, Nebraska.**—During the spring of 1934 I had the pleasure of observing two species of birds that are rare in this locality. On April 28, I observed at close range a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) near Sand Creek, four miles southeast of Holstein, in Logan Township, Adams County. I presume it was a male bird, as its tail seemed extremely long. It perched for several minutes, seemingly unafraid, on the top of a small bush. This location is not far from the place where my neighbor, Leonard Shaw, saw one of these birds on May 15, 1933, as recorded by me in the July, 1933, number of the *Review* (*antea*, i, p. 62). On May 18, I observed an Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*



*vociferus*) resting in the shade of a tree on Sand Creek, in the same general locality. The bird so closely resembled the ground that it was not easily seen until it flew. This is the first individual of this species that I have seen in this locality.—HAROLD TURNER, *Bladen, Nebr.*

**The Eastern Carolina Wren Nests Again at Superior in 1934.**—In the October, 1933, number of the *Review* (*antea*, i, pp. 130-131) I recorded the nesting of the Eastern Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*) late in August of 1933 inside of the warehouse or store-room of the cement plant near Superior. I now wish further to record the nesting of this species again in May of this year at the cement plant, but not in the warehouse or store-room, as last year, but in the electricity repair shop. The nest this year was behind a pasteboard box that had carelessly been placed in one of the pigeon holes in the repair shop, about seven feet from the floor. The entrance to the nest was at the side. The nest was beautifully made of fine grass and lined with white silk thread used for winding armatures, which the electrician had cut in lengths for the birds, but which they refused to use until they were ready to line the nest. The birds entered the room through a broken window pane, and the row of boxes containing their nests was on the other side of the room, about twenty feet away. The electrician would talk by the hour about the habits of these wrens, and he had placed a "Do Not Disturb" sign on the box. On May 4, 1934, the birds began bringing food to the nest. Four birds had hatched out and one egg failed to hatch. On May 8, I personally visited the nest, in company with Mrs. L. H. McKillip of Seward. The men tell us that a pair of these birds nested in the electrical repair shop in April of 1933, before Mrs. Groves and I learned of the nest in the store-room the following August.

On the morning of June 7, Mrs. John Aldrich and I went again to the cement plant, and found a pair again nesting in the warehouse or store-room, where they nested last year. About a week after the young birds that were reared in early May in the repair shop had flown, a pair of Eastern Carolina Wrens came to the store-room, and the male bird coaxed the female to the nest of last year. They then both investigated all of the pigeon holes in the store-room, and finally, on May 31, they began repairing the old nest. There were eggs in it on June 7. Mrs. Aldrich and I climbed the ladder and had a good look at the female on the nest. The male took his turn incubating. There were seven or eight men in the store-room, working near the nest, and they let heavy pieces of iron fall on a platform above the incubating female, but she did not even quiver.—MRS. H. C. JOHNSTON, *Superior, Nebr.*

**Albino Blackbirds and a Horned Lark in Logan County.**—During the latter part of April, 1934, three families, two living on adjoining farms north of Stapleton, Logan County, and the third family about five miles southwest of the same place, reported seeing a "white blackbird". None of them were able to identify the blackbird as to species, but their descriptions would lead us to believe that it was either a Brewer Blackbird or a Bronzed Grackle. On May 29, 1934, Mr. Glandon saw a Saskatchewan Horned Lark with all of the plumage of a soiled white, except that the black markings about the head were normal.—MR and MRS. EARL W. GLANDON, *Stapleton, Nebr.*

**The European Starling and Other Birds at Weeping Water, Cass County.**—On May 12, 1934, while I was driving toward Weeping Water, Cass County, in company with Mr. Watson E. Beed, and was still two or three miles west of that town, we saw a European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) fly across the road in front of us. We observed it carefully through the binoculars, to make certain of the identification, then I shot at it at a distance of fifty feet, but failed to secure it. On the same date, in the woods around Weeping Water, we noted an Eastern (?)

Red-tailed Hawk, a Broad-winged Hawk, dozens of Red-headed Woodpeckers, several Arkansas Kingbirds, several Northern Crested Flycatchers, several Tufted Titmice, a Wood Thrush (just arrived), a Red-eyed Vireo, several Eastern Yellow Warblers, several Kentucky Warblers, a Yellow-breasted Chat, numerous American Redstarts, and in several instances, groups of from six to eight male Indigo Buntings collected together along the road.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, *Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Occurrence of the American Woodcock within the City of Lincoln.**—Early on the morning of May 17, 1934, Mrs. Della Scott of 1331 North 37th Street, in East Lincoln, looking out of her back window, saw a peculiar appearing bird unknown to her. It was probing about in the wet soil surrounding a sunken bird bath that had overflowed and the almost equally wet soil under the surrounding peonies which recently had been thoroughly wetted down. Mrs. Scott immediately called her daughter, Mrs. W. W. Burr of 1300 North 37th Street, the wife of Dean Burr of the College of Agriculture, who lives almost directly across the street from Mrs. Scott, and told her of her strange bird visitor. Dean and Mrs. Burr, with their two children, have been interested in Nebraska birds for years, and they immediately came to see this new bird, which Dean Burr tentatively identified as an American Woodcock. Mrs. Burr then telephoned to me about the bird, and Mrs. Swenk and I also went to the Scott home to see it. It was still feeding about the bath and under the peonies, within a few feet of the back window, and was viewed for several minutes by the seven of us, and later by several others who were subsequently advised of its presence. I was able immediately to identify the bird beyond any question as the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). It finally left the peonies, and, walking south into the next-door neighbor's yard, squatted contentedly at the back of the garage alongside a roll of wire fencing. There it was subsequently seen by many other persons. On searching for it later in the morning, however, Mrs. Scott found that it had moved, and she did not see it again.

Four days later, on May 21, Dr. David D. Whitney, Chairman of the Department of Zoology of the University of Nebraska, living at 1234 A Street, in South Lincoln, and removed nearly four miles from the Scott home, saw an American Woodcock in his yard at noon. In the evening it could not again be found there, but on the evening of May 22, Mr. Fred W. Tyler, residing at 1204 A Street, a few doors removed from the Whitney home, noted what he thought was "an odd-looking Flicker" feeding at a wet place in his lawn. He called Mrs. Tyler, who has been a close student of birds for many years, to see it, and she also identified it as an American Woodcock. Mrs. Tyler immediately telephoned me, but I did not return home that evening until it was too dark to see the bird. However, Mrs. Tyler was to look for it the following morning, and if she found it, notify me by telephone at once. But the next morning it had again disappeared, and was not subsequently reported by any one.

Considering the fact that the American Woodcock has always been an uncommon to rare bird in Nebraska, and that it has been reported as seen anywhere in the state only four or five times during the past thirty years, with only one previous and thirty-five year old record from the Lincoln vicinity, this repeated observation of what was with little doubt the same individual bird, at three different places all within the congested portion of the city of Lincoln, between May 17 and 22, inclusive, forms a really very remarkable record. Formerly, the American Woodcock was an uncommon migrant in Nebraska, chiefly in April and September, along the Missouri River, and a rare one farther west. It is now very rare everywhere in the state. Most of the records of its past occurrence are from the eastern parts of Otoe, Cass, Sarpy, Douglas and Washington Counties. Stragglers have been seen or taken during the

past seventy-five years at Clearwater, Columbus, West Point, Lincoln, Beatrice, Red Cloud and Funk, all east of the 100th meridian. It undoubtedly bred in the Missouri River bottoms before it became so rare.

Thomas Say recorded the arrival of the American Woodcock at Engineer Cantonment (= Fort Calhoun, Washington County), on April 8, 1820. F. V. Hayden, with Lieutenant G. K. Warren's party, took a male specimen (No. 9040, U. S. N. M.) on July 18, 1857, at "Loup Fork, Nebraska", that being in the present Platte County, near Columbus. A. L. Child recorded its arrival at Plattsmouth, Cass County, on April 7, 1867 (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 14). Samuel Aughey in 1878 recorded two shot in Sarpy County in September, 1874, and one shot in Otoe County in September, 1876. Merritt Cary reported in 1900 that a few were killed "years ago" on the Clearwater, ten miles west of Neligh, Antelope County (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 23). A specimen shot near Beatrice, Gage County, in the early 1890's was mounted by Fred Wespahl of that place, and reported to Bruner by F. A. Colby. I saw this specimen myself in Beatrice in the late 1890's. A specimen on exhibit for years in a store at Kearney was said to have been shot near Waterloo, Douglas County, along the lower Elkhorn River. A mounted specimen now in the Hastings museum (No. 1628) is from Omaha, no other data. A. M. Brooking says that many years ago at Funk, Phelps County, he saw an American Woodcock, but he has never known of its occurrence at Hastings, where he has lived for a number of years, or seen it elsewhere in the state. C. A. Black gives me the same report for Kearney, where he has lived and observed birds for many years.

On April 19, 1900, M. A. Carriker shot an American Woodcock, while it was feeding among some willows along Oak Creek, west of Lincoln, Lancaster County. This specimen is now preserved in the N. O. U. collection. "In the fall of 1916 a Woodcock lingered in one of the smallest parks in the heart of the residence district of Omaha from August 10 to September 24, thanks to the underbrush which had been left undisturbed in the park" (L. O. Horsky, *Wilson Bulletin*, xxx, p. 18). The last specimen of the Woodcock known to have been collected in Nebraska is one that was shot by J. E. Wallace and Roy Mullen in Mill Hollow near Child's Point, Sarpy County, about 100 yards up the creek, about 1910, which was disposed of to Fred Goodrich of Omaha, and was for years in the Goodrich collection at the Omaha Public Library before this collection was removed to the Museum of the University of Nebraska. C. S. Ludlow reports having seen one at Red Cloud, Webster County, on April 25, 1931.

It has been generally believed that the Woodcock "bred occasionally along the bottomlands of the Missouri River and other wooded streams flowing into it (Bruner, Wolcott and Swenk, *Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska*, p. 39; 1904), but the supporting evidence is rather meager. Samuel Aughey in 1878 said that the Woodcock was "occasionally seen in Nebraska and breeds here". I. S. Trostler recorded in 1895 that this bird was not common as a migrant and rare as a (summer) resident, gradually diminishing in numbers, in the vicinity of Omaha, and L. Skow at about the same time recorded it as a breeder near Omaha (Bruner, *Some Notes on Nebraska Birds*; 1896). Neither cites specific data. L. Bruner in 1901 reported it as a breeder at West Point, Cuming County, on his own authority, and at Omaha on the authority of L. Skow (*Proc. N. O. U.*, ii, p. 51). A. C. Bent includes West Point, Nebraska, and London, Nebraska, in the breeding range of the species. The best evidence of the breeding of the species that I have is that J. E. Wallace told me that, about 1909 or 1910, he found a pair of these birds located in the willow thicket across from Coffin Spring, near Child's Point, Sarpy County. The birds would hide closely in this thicket during the daytime, but at dusk would sometimes be seen coming out to the

spring across the road and elsewhere in the vicinity. Quite early in that spring, in May, Wallace flushed a whole brood of young Woodcocks from this thicket, but did not secure any of them. The next year, in June, he flushed a young but practically grown Woodcock from this thicket, and it flew about twenty feet into a pile of brush where it hid and Wallace caught it. The bird was nearly full grown, but the soft bill and down showed it to be a young one.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Blue Geese Raised in Captivity in Nebraska.**—Mr. William Lemberg, who propagates wild game on his farm near Boelus, Howard County, told me this spring that he had a female Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) that was wing-tipped several years ago, which he has had in captivity since, that was producing eggs for the second season. On May 28, 1934, in company with Mr. H. G. Smith, I drove to Mr. Lemberg's place and found that this bird had hatched its brood of goslings and was mothering them. It is my impression that Blue Geese have been raised in captivity in only a relatively few instances. On his game farm, Mr. Lemberg has not only the nesting Blue Geese, but also nesting Lesser Snow and Lesser Canada Geese, as well as Common Mallards, American Pintails, Wood Ducks and many varieties of pheasants.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**Some Notes on Thrushes.**—On May 29, 1934, I noted the female of a pair of Wood Thrushes (*Hylocichla ustulata mustelina*) that had located in our yard gathering pieces of paper from the ground and carrying them to a maple tree near our back door. I found that she had a partially constructed nest in this tree, and had been using the rag strings that I had put out for the Catbird two days before. Since she had shown no fear, venturing even closer to me than our Robins, I secured a piece of cloth and began tearing it into little strips, as I stood, dropping them at my feet. She came and picked them up and carried them to the nest. Then I sat down and spread the strings on my shoes and ankles, and again as I talked she came and took them without the least hesitation. The male bird took no part in the nest building, but he certainly did splendid duty guarding as she worked. Our family all left town before the young Wood Thrushes hatched, but when Mr. Jones returned he found the nest had blown down during a windstorm. The neighbors, however, were inclined to think that the young had left the nest before the storm.

On June 1, I was awakened at 5:40 A. M. by a bird song that I could not promptly identify. The bird was in a tree near my bedroom window. I dressed quickly and was soon out in the yard searching for the singer, which, to my surprise, proved to be an Olive-backed Swainson Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*). He repeated the song again and again, and was here for at least three hours. I had heard this song only once before, at Nelson, Nuckolls County. This time there seemed to me to be a similarity in it to the song of the Eastern Warbling Vireo. This thrush returned to the yard on three different days during the following week, and on each of these days sang constantly as before.—MRS. A. H. JONES, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**A Bullsnake Robs a Red-headed Woodpecker's Nest.**—At the office of the Niobrara Game Preserve near Valentine, Cherry County, there is a cottonwood tree having a circumference of fifty-one inches from which a limb broke off eight feet above the ground. A Red-headed Woodpecker enlarged the opening for a nest. During the last week in June, 1934, some workmen heard the bird scolding and found a bullsnake in the nest. The snake was killed and found to contain three young woodpeckers. This cottonwood had no limbs below the nest, which seems to establish as a fact that the bullsnake can climb cottonwood trees of large size and free of limbs.—WATSON E. BEED, *Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The Western Blue Grosbeak at Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—Though there are numerous records of the occurrence of the Western Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea interfusa*) in the Lincoln vicinity, I believe the species has been regarded as quite uncommon, or perhaps rare, here. However, two recent experiences with it raise the question as to whether it is not becoming more common in this vicinity. About 6:00 A. M. on July 11, 1934, as I was driving slowly toward Lincoln along South 56th Street, after an early morning bird trip, I saw a male sitting upon a telephone wire along the road. He was shy, and when I stopped abruptly to view him through the field glasses he flew to the top of a near-by hay stack, where he stayed just long enough for me to note the details of his form and coloring. About a week later, on July 19, I took another early morning bird study trip, and when I turned to the west some miles south of Lincoln, I saw another male Western Blue Grosbeak, upon the ground in a recently cut alfalfa field. Through the field glasses I enjoyed his lovely blue coloring as it caught the full early morning light, and I watched him for fully ten minutes as he fidgeted about, searching for food. The approach of the farmer raking his hay finally frightened him away.—MISS IVA SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The Wilson Snipe Occurs in Saline County in Midsummer.**—On July 15, 1934, while I was walking disconsolately along the fringe of woods bordering Turkey Creek, near Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska, with the temperature breaking the record for the day at 115° F., my attention all centered on the withering corn next to the woods, I noted a Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*) come flying directly toward me, momentarily alighting under a tree not more than fifteen feet away. It is needless to say that this unusual observation for the time modified the intensity of my thoughts regarding the apparently doomed corn.—L. O. HORSKY, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**The American Egret and Other Herons at Fairbury, Jefferson County.**—On or about July 25, 1934, an American Egret (*Herodias albus egretta*) appeared at the sand pit ponds north of our farm, a few miles west of Fairbury. It was seen daily, feeding about the ponds, and on the morning of July 31 was joined by two smaller herons, which we have identified as the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) in the immature white plumage. The smaller ones are only about half as large as the Egret, and, like it, have the legs all black, but the bill is not so yellow. Mrs. Charles Richardson saw an American Black-crowned Night Heron here during this same general period. Also, on July 31, while watching various small sandpipers at this sand pit lake, we had the thrill of seeing a Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*) alight near by.—MISSES SUSIE and AGNESS CALLAWAY, *Fairbury, Nebr.*

**Water-bird Concentrations Due to Drouth.**—At the end of July, 1934, there was no water in the North Platte or the South Platte Rivers west of the Lincoln County line and none in the Platte River east of the Lincoln County line. The water present in this vicinity comes from Birdwood Creek and the drainage ditches, and from this scant supply the river here is the lowest that we have known it in years. On the evening of July 30, on the sandbars east of the Lincoln Highway bridge, I saw twelve Great Blue Herons, two Eastern Green Herons, several American Black-crowned Night Herons and some Spotted Sandpipers. On July 31, again on the sandbars, at one time I saw twelve American Bitterns, several Piping Plovers, several Northern Killdeers, several Spotted Sandpipers, a small flock of Least Sandpipers and dozens of Eastern Least Terns. I think that this is probably a concentration of these birds at these limited water areas on account of the general drouth, as I have no records of any such numbers or abundance of these species here in former years.—WILSON TOUT, *North Platte, Nebr.*

## THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

For the second time in its history the American Ornithologists' Union is bringing its annual meeting to the Middle West. The meeting-place this fall is at Chicago, in the Field Museum of Natural History, October 22 to 27. It is hoped that all who can will attend these sessions, thus brought so close to us. The Wilson Ornithological Club will hold its 1934 meeting at Pittsburgh later in the year, in connection with the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, on December 28 and 29, this being the second time the W. O. C. has met at Pittsburgh.

As these lines are written, at the end of July, we are in the midst of the worst year of drouth in the history of Nebraska. Since the close of the 1934 migration season, the weather for which is discussed in detail under that heading in this and the preceding issue of the *Review*, the drouth has continued with increased severity. June was hot and dry, with the average temperature for the state nearly six degrees higher than normal, making it, except for 1931 and 1933, the warmest June of record. At the end of June, the precipitation deficiency for the state was 5.68 inches and for Lincoln 8.65 inches. July continued and intensified the torridity and aridity. At Lincoln, twenty-one of the thirty-one days of July exceeded 100° F.; in fact, the mean maximum temperature for the month was 100.2°. From July 11 to 25, inclusive, maximum temperatures for each of these fifteen days at Lincoln varied from 101° to as high as 112° (on July 15). Mere traces of precipitation, with a few slight showers, altogether totalling only .40 inch, brought the accumulated 1934 precipitation deficiency at Lincoln at the end of July to 12.10 inches. As day followed day with monotonously cloudless skies and glaring sun, the pastures and fields became seared brown, the corn withered, and the leaves of many of the trees curled and dried.

Under these circumstances it has been very interesting to note the effect of the drouth on bird life. In the country birds are abnormally few. Even the ubiquitous Dickcissels have been very little in evidence along the roadsides. A few Western Meadowlarks and Crows, with some straggling Bronzed Grackles, are the birds most commonly seen. Unusual birds, seeking water, apparently have been attracted into town, or away from their normal habitations during their migrations — as witness the occurrence of an American Woodcock in the city of Lincoln on May 17 to 22, and the occurrence of a Northern Virginia Rail in a farm yard near Hastings on May 21. Wherever there persists a little accumulation of water anywhere, may be found unusual concentrations of herons, Northern Killdeers and a few other waders and water birds. In the towns, where water is available and there is some artificially maintained greenery, the birds seem to be at least ordinarily numerous and in many instances more so. Insects are closely picked up, and scarce as compared to their abundance in the bird-neglected open fields.

## THE 1934 MIGRATION SEASON

The months of April and May of 1934 were very warm, bright and exceedingly dry, with frequent windy dust storms, thus continuing the warm weather and rainfall deficiency that began in October of 1933 and became accentuated into a drouth of exceeding severity during the spring of 1934. In April the average precipitation for the state, 0.54 inch, was only 22% of the normal for that month, and May was only slightly better, with an average of 1.06 inches, or 30% of the May normal. Only two previous Aprils (1926 and 1928) and only one previous May (1894) have been recorded as drier than these respective months in 1934. The April precipitation deficiency varied from 14% of normal in the southeastern section of Nebraska to 29% of normal in the northwestern section, the precipitation falling during the first five days of the month in eastern Nebraska, but also on the 14th to 16th in the western section of the state. In May, the precipitation deficiency was greatest in the central and eastern parts of Nebraska, varying from 17% of the normal in the central section to 54% of the normal in the western section. The general moisture deficiency for Nebraska as a whole at the end of May was 4.59 inches for the five months of 1934 and 6.43 inches for the preceding eight months, making the total average rainfall only about 40% of the normal for these periods. At Lincoln the 1934 moisture deficiency was 6.80 inches, there having been but 0.35 inch of precipitation in April and 0.49 inch in May.

Average temperatures during April (52.1°) ran well (2.9°) above the normal over the state, being especially high during the first ten and the last two or three days of the month; so that, although during the rest of the month the temperatures were normal or below, the average departures varied from 3.7 degrees above normal in the southwestern section to 2.3 degrees above normal in the northwestern section, and made the month as a whole warmer than all but seven of the Aprils during the last fifty-eight years. May of 1934 was the warmest of record in Nebraska, exceeding by 10.4 degrees the average temperature for that month and by 4.7 degrees the warmest previous May (1881). May was actually warmer than a normal June. Northern Nebraska showed the greatest departure from normal. The periods of highest May temperatures were from the 15th to the 21st and from the 28th to the 31st. Maximum temperatures over 100° were reported from all over eastern and central Nebraska. The lowest May temperatures were on the 13th to 15th. The unpleasant and damaging effects of the high temperatures were intensified, both in April and May, by frequent dust storms, a deficiency of cloudiness and low humidities.

This severe drouth and heat of April and May of 1934 had a pronounced effect upon the land bird migration through Nebraska. While the waterfowl migration during February and March was normal in western Nebraska and up to par or better in eastern Nebraska, and was reported as better than normal through Iowa (*litt.* P. A. DuMont, April 25, 1934), there seemed to be something of a falling off in central Nebraska, where the moisture deficiency was greatest, except at certain concentration points. But by the beginning of April and on through May, with the whole eastern two-thirds of Nebraska suffering from a very pronounced drouth, the resultant paucity of bird life over the countryside was very obvious. Bird migration reports for these two months are consistent in reporting fewer than the usual number of birds. The results of the Annual Field Day of the Brooking Bird Club at Hastings on May 12 — an exceedingly dry, windy and dusty day — published on another page of this issue of the *Review*, were quite disappointing to the club members. Also the composite list at the N. O. U. Field Day at Omaha on May 19, likewise published on another page, was the smallest in many years. However, in the cities and towns, where

the water supply was more plentiful and more food was available, the bird population was more nearly normal; but even there, in spite of the implied concentration in these spots, birds were not particularly numerous. They either swung to the eastward from their normal course across Nebraska and the Dakotas, or else passed on so rapidly that they were less in evidence than usual.

Continuing the bird migration record from the middle of April, where it ended in the last number of the *Review* (*antea*, ii, pp. 48-50), it may first be noted that the Migrant Loggerhead Shrikes, which were first seen April 1, were nesting by April 19, on which date Mr. G. E. Hudson found a nest with six slightly incubated eggs about twenty-two feet up in a boxelder tree. Prof. D. B. Whelan noted the return of the first Brown Thrasher on April 20. They were not common, however, until April 26 and 27. Mr. Hudson, with Mr. W. E. Beed, spent part of April 22 along Little Salt, and noted the arrival of the Least Sandpiper (three), Semipalmated Sandpiper (one), Savannah Sparrow (subsp.?) (common) and Vesper Sparrow (one). Other species observed by him on this trip included (+ or -) eight Baldpates, six American Pintails, sixty Blue-winged Teals, thirty Shovellers, ten Lesser Scaups, two Wilson Snipes, ten Lesser Yellow-legs, thirty Baird Sandpipers and twenty-five Franklin Gulls. Twelve Northern Short-eared Owls were flushed from an area about the size of a city lot in the grass in King's pasture. One adult male Marsh Hawk was seen, while several Eastern Common Meadowlarks and many Western Meadowlarks were heard singing. Miss Louisa Wilson noted the Hermit Thrush (subsp.?) at her home on April 25, and Mrs. George O. Smith noted two Sprague Pipits along the road south of Lincoln on April 26. On April 27, Mr. Hudson noted about fifteen Chimney Swifts near Auburn, Nemaha County, and a Barn Swallow near Denton, Lancaster County, while M. H. Swenk noted the return of the Western House Wren (common) in Lincoln. The Arctic Spotted Towhee was noted in her yard by Miss Wilson on April 28, and a fine male was seen in his yard by M. H. Swenk on May 6. Also on April 28, between Lincoln and Omaha, M. H. Swenk noted Blue-winged Teals, Shovellers and Lesser Yellow-legs very commonly at roadside ponds. New arrivals found by Messrs. Hudson and Beed on April 29 at Capitol Beach and King's pasture on Little Salt were the Hudsonian Godwit (a fine male, which was collected), Stilt Sandpiper (one), Wilson Phalarope (about twenty-five, with both sexes represented), Eastern Kingbird (one), Rough-winged Swallow (two) and Yellow-headed Blackbird (flock of about fifteen males). Other species seen on April 29 included about forty-five Blue-winged Teals, about twenty Shovellers, Lesser Yellow-legs (common), Baird Sandpiper (common), Least Sandpiper (two), Semipalmated Sandpiper (fairly common), Barn Swallow (one) and Brown Thrasher (two). The nest of a Western Meadowlark with two eggs and one egg of the Cowbird was also found. M. H. Swenk noted the arrival of the Eastern Warbling Vireo on April 30, Mr. Hudson next noting this species on May 5.

On May 1 the Eastern Yellow Warbler was observed by M. H. Swenk, who found the Common Lincoln Sparrow plentiful on that date. Mr. Swenk noted the arrival of the Chimney Swift at Lincoln on May 2, on which date Prof. Raymond Roberts saw a male Baltimore Oriole. M. H. Swenk noted that Baltimore Orioles were fairly common the following day, May 3, and noted also that the Eastern Kingbirds had become common. New arrivals noted on May 4 by Mr. Hudson at Capitol Beach and King's Pond included the Northern American Coot (about eight), Semipalmated Plover (two), Red-headed Woodpecker (several) and Dickcissel (several). Other birds noted by Mr. Hudson on May 4 were a male American Pintail, about thirty-five Blue-winged Teals, about six Shovellers, Lesser Yellow-legs (abundant), Pectoral Sandpiper (common), Baird Sandpiper (abundant), Least Sandpiper (common), Semi-



palmed Sandpiper (common), Wilson Phalarope (common; fifty or more seen) and a male Yellow-headed Blackbird. Mr. Hudson reported the first Catbird (one) on May 5, and Prof. Raymond Roberts next reported one on May 7. Prof. Roberts reported a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak on May 8, on which date the arrival of the Clay-colored Sparrow was noted by M. H. Swenk. Also on May 8, an Ovenbird was found dead by a pupil in the yard at Clinton School in Lincoln and brought to M. H. Swenk. Mrs. B. A. George, 1826 South 26th Street, reported that she found a male and a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak dead in her yard on the morning of May 9, after some extensive spraying had taken place in her yard the preceding day. Miss Wilson reported the arrival of the Tennessee Warbler on May 12. The arrival of the Wood Thrush was noted by M. H. Swenk on May 13, on which date Mr. Hudson noted the arrival of the White-rumped Sandpiper (one), Forster Tern (two) and the Lark Sparrow (subsp. ?), and observed also the Lesser Scaup (four males), Lesser Yellow-legs (several), Pectoral Sandpiper (fairly common), Baird Sandpiper (common), Least Sandpiper (several), Semipalmated Sandpiper (common), Hudsonian Godwit (five), and a Savannah Sparrow (subsp. ?). Red-headed Woodpeckers were common by May 14, on which date two male American Redstarts were seen (M. H. Swenk). Miss Wilson also saw two American Redstarts on May 24, and noted a lone Cedar Waxwing on May 15, where flocks of them had been seen during late March and much of April. On May 17, 21 and 22, an American Woodcock was seen in Lincoln, by different observers, and the arrival of the Arkansas Kingbird and Common Bank Swallow was noted by M. H. Swenk. Other birds noted as common on May 17 were the Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Dickcissel, between Lincoln and Omaha. The Yellow-throated Vireo was noted by Miss Wilson at her home on May 20. May 24 Miss Wilson noted the Northern Gray-cheeked Thrush and Mrs. Fred Tyler reported the Black-throated Green Warbler. Miss Wilson reports a return migrant Ovenbird in her yard on July 30 and August 3 to 6.

Continuing the migration record of the Omaha Nature Study Club from where it concluded in the April number of the *Review (antea, ii, p. 46)*, Mrs. Mary Belle Shook reported seeing an American Osprey and Lesser Yellow-legs on April 22. Mr. L. O. Horsky noted the arrival of the Brown Thrasher on April 29. Mr. Horsky noted also the arrival of the Red-headed Woodpecker and Eastern Yellow Warbler on May 1, of the Western House Wren on May 2, and of the Baltimore Oriole and Dickcissel on May 2. On May 5, Mrs. Shook noted the Eastern Myrtle Warbler and Miss Elizabeth Rooney identified the Eastern Meadowlark. A flock of eight Common Mallards was observed by Miss Rooney at Linoma Beach, near Ashland, Nebraska, on May 5, and a flock of fifty Common Mallards and American Pintails was flushed on the Elkhorn River, near Elkhorn, Nebraska, by Mr. George Gautier on the following day, May 6. Mr. Horsky recorded the arrival of the Catbird and Northern Bell Vireo on May 6, of the Eastern Kingbird on May 7, the Chimney Swift on May 9 and the Eastern (?) Nighthawk on May 16. Mr. F. J. De la Vega reported the arrival of the Eastern (?) Mockingbird on May 20, and Mrs. F. J. Havel and Mr. Walter Lipper observed the Ruby-throated Hummingbird on June 3. Mr. Horsky found both the Prairie (?) Long-billed Marsh Wren and the White-eyed Vireo nesting near Omaha on July 7.

Continuing the migration record of the Nature Department of the Fairbury Woman's Club sent in by the Misses Agness and Susie Callaway for the first half of 1934, from where it was barely started in the January number of the *Review (antea, ii, pp. 16 and 17)*, and eliminating such resident forms as the Eastern Bob-white, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Screech Owl, Prairie

Horned Lark, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Cardinal and Eastern American Goldfinch, we have the following dates of first observation of 130 species: January 1—Marsh Hawk, Eastern Brown Creeper, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow and Harris Sparrow. January 8—Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Bohemian Waxwing and Cedar Waxwing (large flock). January 13—Rusty Blackbird. January 14—Eastern Belted Kingfisher. January 16—Red-eyed Eastern Towhee. January 30—Red-breasted Nuthatch. January 31—American Magpie and Northern Shrike. February 4—Eastern Robin. February 6—American Pintail, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch and Eastern Common Bluebird. February 7—Northern Turkey Vulture. February 9—Brown Thrasher (banded with No. 278847). February 16—Eastern Sparrow Hawk. February 26—Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker.

March 3—Red-winged Blackbird (subsp. ?). March 6—Northern Killdeer and Western Meadowlark. March 11—Canada Goose (subsp. ?), Lesser Snow Goose, Blue Goose and Eastern Cowbird. March 16—Song Sparrow (subsp. ?). March 18—Eastern Phoebe. March 19—Bronzed Grackle. March 20—Common Mallard. March 25—Gadwall. March 27—Redhead and Migrant Loggerhead Shrike. March 28—Baldpate, Shoveler and Canvas-back. March 30—Brown Thrasher (migrants) and Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

April 1—Blue-winged Teal, Cooper Hawk, Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern (?) Vesper Sparrow and Western Field Sparrow. April 3—Franklin Gull. April 6—Western Burrowing Owl, Northern Purple Martin, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bendire (?) Red Crossbill, Savannah Sparrow (subsp. ?) and Clay-colored Sparrow. April 8—Northern American Coot and Tree Swallow. April 11—Eastern Lark Sparrow. April 14—Eastern Great Blue Heron and Arctic Spotted Towhee. April 15—Green-winged Teal and Common Lincoln Sparrow. April 16—Rough-winged Swallow and Western House Wren. April 17—Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Common Meadowlark, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Chipping Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. April 19—Common Bank Swallow and Mockingbird (subsp. ?). April 20—Eastern Green Heron, Baird Sandpiper, Barn Swallow and Western Grasshopper Sparrow. April 23—Wilson Snipe and American Barn Owl. April 26—Common Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Broad-winged Hawk, Eastern Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson Phalarope, Eastern Great Horned Owl, Northern Crested Flycatcher (in yard), Northern Blue Jay (migrants), Eastern Myrtle Warbler and Yellow-headed Blackbird. April 27—Eastern White-crowned Sparrow and Gambel Sparrow. April 29—Eastern Warbling Vireo. April 30—Chimney Swift, Eastern Kingbird and Tennessee Warbler.

May 1—Arkansas Kingbird, Wood Thrush and Baltimore Oriole. May 3—Red-headed Woodpecker, Catbird, Eastern Yellow Warbler and Dickcissel. May 5—Louisiana Water-Thrush and Northern Maryland Yellow-throat. May 6—Upland Plover, Olive-backed Swainson Thrush, Northern Bell Vireo, American Redstart, Orchard Oriole and Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak. May 8—Lesser Scaup; American Buff-breasted Merganser, Eastern (?) Nighthawk and Grinnell Common Water-Thrush. May 10—Yellow-throated Vireo (in yard), Black-poll Warbler and White-throated Sparrow. May 12—Least Flycatcher. May 15—Spotted Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Wood Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bobolink, Scarlet Tanager, Western Blue Grosbeak (in yard) and Indigo Bunting. May 17—Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo. May 25—Ruby-throated Hummingbird. May 27—American Bittern. June 3—Sora Rail (Mrs. Charles Richardson).

Under dates of May 15 and June 5, Mrs. A. H. Jones of Hastings re-

ports on the migration record at that place for the spring of 1934, in continuation of the record previously published (*antea*, ii, pp. 46-48). On April 8, Miss M. Caryle Sylla observed the Lesser Canada Goose, Cooper Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Greater Yellow-legs, Rocky Mountain Say Phoebe, (Western ?) Mockingbird, Savannah Sparrow (subsp. ?) and Western Lark Sparrow; Mrs. A. H. Jones noted the Baird Sandpiper. Mrs. A. M. Jones noted the Blue-winged Teal, (Eastern ?) Bob-white and Eastern Belted Kingfisher; Mrs. Jesse Marian the American Barn Owl; and Mrs. A. E. Olsen the Eastern Phoebe. Mrs. A. H. Jones noted the arrival of the Northern Purple Martin on April 9, and on April 13 Mrs. E. R. Maunder saw the Eastern Fox Sparrow. On April 14, Miss Margaret Diemer saw the (Western ?) Vesper Sparrow. Miss Diemer added the Baldpate, Redhead and Northern Ruddy Duck on April 15. The Western Field Sparrow was seen by Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones on April 17. Mr. A. M. Brooking saw the Common Bank Swallow on April 18. On April 19, Mesdames A. M. Brooking, J. D. Fuller, A. H. and A. M. Jones and A. E. Olsen noted as new arrivals the Pectoral Sandpiper, Barn Swallow and Sprague Pipit. Miss Diemer added the Northern American Coot, Franklin Gull and Yellow-headed Blackbird on April 21. Miss Diemer and Mrs. A. H. Jones noted the Swainson Hawk, Western Burrowing Owl and Red-eyed Eastern Towhee on April 22, on which date Messrs. Kenneth Eaton and Lee observed the White Pelican. On April 27, Mesdames Brooking, Fuller, A. H. and A. M. Jones, Olsen and Miss Sylla noted the White-rumped Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Wilson Phalarope, Tree Swallow, Western House Wren, Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler, Eastern Myrtle Warbler, Eastern Cowbird, Arctic Spotted Towhee and Gambel Sparrow, and Mesdames A. M. Brooking and A. H. Jones added the Eastern Chipping Sparrow. On April 29, Mrs. Brooking and Miss Carrie Hansen saw the Black-crowned Night Heron, and they, with the Misses Nelle and Zetta Rowe and Miss Sylla, saw also the Spotted Sandpiper, (Eastern ?) Solitary Sandpiper, Eastern Great Horned Owl, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Black and White Warbler, Brewer Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Common Lincoln Sparrow. On this same date, Mrs. A. H. Jones saw the American Bittern, Semipalmated Sandpiper and migrant Northern Blue Jays, and the Misses Rowe and Miss Sylla noted the Long-billed Dowitcher. Mrs. Fuller observed the Clay-colored Sparrow on April 30.

The May arrivals began with the Eastern Kingbird on May 1, seen by Mrs. A. M. Jones. On May 2, Miss Diemer added the Chimney Swift, Mrs. J. R. Glassey the Catbird and Miss Sylla the Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak. On May 3, Mrs. Marian added the Red-headed Woodpecker and Northern Bell Vireo, Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones the Eastern Warbling Vireo and Eastern Yellow Warbler, and Mr. A. M. Brooking the Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, Bobolink and Western Grasshopper Sparrow. May 4 arrivals were the Eastern Green Heron, seen by Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones, the Red-bellied Woodpecker seen by Mrs. Olsen in her yard, and the Wood Thrush and Western Palm Warbler noted by Mrs. A. M. Jones. Miss Diemer saw a Bewick Wren (subsp. ?) on May 5. May 6 arrivals were the Upland Plover seen by Mrs. A. H. Jones, the Olive-backed Swainson Thrush and Black-poll Warbler seen by Miss Diemer and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen by Mrs. Roy Youngblood. Mr. Winston Jones noted the Northern Gray-checked Thrush on May 7, and on May 9 Miss Diemer added the Common Pied-billed Grebe, Eastern Cliff Swallow and Red-eyed Vireo. A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen by Mrs. A. E. Olsen inside of a greenhouse on May 10, where it was feeding from the snapdragons. She watched it as it flitted about for some time before it left through an open window in the top of the greenhouse. The workers there said that

it had been coming in to feed on previous days, and that hummingbirds had been seen doing the same thing in other seasons. Miss Diemer added the Least Flycatcher and Mrs. Olsen the Orchard Oriole on May 11. The Field Trip of the Brooking Bird Club on May 12 added six species as follows: Florida Gallinule (seen by Mrs. A. H. Jones, Mrs. Olsen and Miss Baehr), Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Grinnell Common Water-thrush, American Redstart, Western Blue Grosbeak and Dickcissel (seen by the Misses Rowe and Miss Sylla). Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones saw the Long-tailed (?) Chat on May 13, on which date the latter flushed three Bob-whites from the yard of a vacant house in the center of the town of Hastings. Mr. and Mrs. Brooking saw the Lark Bunting on May 18, the Sora on May 28, on which latter date Mr. Winston Jones noted also a (Sennett ?) Nighthawk, and Mr. Brooking added the American Black Tern on May 29.

Under date of June 8, Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior, Nebraska, writes that very few warblers were seen at Superior during the spring of 1934, and then only one or two of them at a time. On May 13, a flock of about forty Bobolinks appeared in an alfalfa field west of town and stayed for a week, which is unusual for the Superior locality, Mrs. Johnston says. An Ovenbird stayed in her yard from May 10 to 24 before it passed on northward. A Yellow-breasted (?) Chat was in her yard from May 14 until the 28th, on which day it sang all day long, from early morning until the sun went down. Mrs. Johnston noted the first Black-billed Cuckoo ever seen by her at Superior on May 25, this bird also being seen in her yard.

Under date of June 19, Mr. Harold Turner of Logan Township, Adams County, near Holstein, sends in the following dates of first arrival of birds in that locality during the last week in April and through May, 1934: April 23—Franklin Gull. April 26—Western House Wren and Western (?) Mockingbird. April 27—Brown Thrasher. April 28—Barn Swallow. April 29—Northern Blue Jay (migrants). April 30—Arkansas Kingbird. May 1—Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird and Eastern Cowbird. May 2—Baltimore Oriole. May 8—Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak. May 9—Orchard Oriole. May 10—American Bittern. May 12—Eastern Green Heron. May 17—Western Blue Grosbeak. May 18—Catbird. May 20—Yellow-billed Cuckoo. May 21—Sennett (?) Nighthawk. Mr. Turner states that on May 28, in company with Mr. A. M. Brooking of Hastings, he observed a Northern Virginia Rail in a farm yard a few miles northeast of Hastings. He adds that the Migrant Loggerhead Shrike was quite numerous in his locality the past spring, but that the Red-eyed Eastern Towhees were not so numerous as a year ago. Bob-whites (subsp. ?) were heard calling on May 6 and again on June 16.

Under date of July 14, Mr. Charles S. Ludlow of Red Cloud writes that the birds came earlier than usual in his locality, and moved on more promptly. This accounts, he says, why his 1934 list lacks a number of species that he usually sees each spring on his place. He has also sent in his migration record at Red Cloud for the first five months of 1934. During January, he noted one (Eastern ?) Red-tailed Hawk, two Swainson Hawks, two Prairie Falcons, four Ring-necked Common Pheasants, two Great Horned Owls (subsp. ?), six Northern Short-eared Owls, two Eastern Hairy Woodpeckers, four Northern Downy Woodpeckers, eight (Prairie ?) Horned Larks, two Hoyt Horned Larks, five Piñon Jays, four Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees and five (Pale ?) American Goldfinches. Three Harris Sparrows were seen on January 13.

The first Eastern Robin, a male, was seen on February 4 (it was common on March 12), on which former date four American Goldfinches were also seen. Fourteen Red-winged Blackbirds were seen on February

5, and an Eastern Brown Creeper on February 13. A Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker was noted on March 2. On March 4, was the first flight of wild fowl, Mr. Ludlow noting on this date fifteen Canada Geese (subsp. ?), sixteen Common Mallards, about sixty American Pintails and twelve Blue-winged Teals. Also on March 4, he saw the first Eastern Cardinal for 1934. Two Eastern Belted Kingfishers were seen on March 9. The Eastern Common Bluebird appeared on March 10, a single individual. Two Northern Killdeers were seen on March 11. On March 12, the arrival of the Western Meadowlark (twelve), Bronzed Grackle (thirty-five), and Eastern Cowbird (flock) was noted, and the last Eastern Slate-colored Junco was seen. A pair of (Eastern ?) Sparrow Hawks was seen on March 13. A flock of about forty-eight Sandhill Cranes was seen on March 20, thirty-seven Lesser Snow Geese on March 21, and two Western Mourning Doves on March 30.

On April 3, five Shufeldt Oregon Juncos were seen. Mr. Ben Pegg saw two Spotted Sandpipers on the early date of April 10. On April 14, Mr. Ludlow saw eighty Franklin Gulls and four (Eastern ?) Chipping Sparrows. A White-rumped Loggerhead Shrike was seen on April 18. Two (Western ?) Lark Sparrows were seen on April 23, two Rough-winged Swallows on April 24, four migrant Northern Blue Jays and one each of the Western House Wren and Brown Thrasher on April 28. On April 29, Mr. Ludlow noted an Eastern Phoebe, four Common Bank Swallows, ten Eastern Cliff Swallows, an Eastern Warbling Vireo, a Baltimore Oriole and two Red-eyed Eastern Towhees. Three Barn Swallows were noted on April 30.

The May arrivals began with six Eastern Myrtle Warblers, two Audubon Warblers and one Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, on May 1. May 2 brought two (Western ?) Mockingbirds. On May 3, the Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler and Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, one each, were noted. May 4 arrivals included one Eastern Wood Pewee, two Eastern Yellow Warblers, two Gambel Sparrows and two White-throated Sparrows. May 5 arrivals were the Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird and Savannah Sparrow (subsp. ?). Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen on May 6. On May 7, Mr. Ludlow added the Arkansas Kingbird (two), Black-poll Warbler (three), American Redstart (one), Orchard Oriole (three), and Western Blue Grosbeak (pair). Birds seen on May 8 were two Swainson Hawks, a pair of Bob-whites (subsp. ?) and two Arctic Spotted Towhees. Two Catbirds were seen on May 9. The Red-eyed Vireo (two) and Black and White Warbler (three) were recorded for May 10. Two Wood Thrushes were seen on May 11. A pair of Eastern Green Herons was noted on May 13, and they again nested in an old shot-out crow's nest in the apple tree where they had nested in previous years. A Sennett Nighthawk and two Northern Bell Vireos were seen on May 14. An Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen on May 16, and three Dickcissels on May 20.

Mrs. George W. Trine of Red Cloud also sends in her bird migration list for 1934. She noted her first Eastern Robin on March 4, and her first Eastern Cardinal on March 5, the day after Mr. Ludlow first noted the species. A Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen on March 12. Her first date for the Eastern Common Bluebird was March 18, on which date she noted also the Western Meadowlark and Red-winged Blackbird (subsp. ?). The Western Mourning Dove was noted March 19. On March 20, she noted the Lesser Snow Goose and Northern Killdeer. Mrs. Trine noted her first Bronzed Grackle on March 24 and her first White-rumped Loggerhead Shrike on March 25. The Northern Purple Martin arrived at Mrs. Trine's home on April 1, on which date she noted also the (Prairie ?) Horned Lark. On April 2 she saw the Shufeldt Oregon (?) Junco and on April 14 the Northern Pine Siskin. Her first dates

for the Western House Wren and Brown Thrasher were April 22 and April 21, respectively. Migrant Northern Blue Jays were first seen on April 26. The Western Grasshopper Sparrow was noted April 28, and April 29 brought the Common Bank Swallow, Eastern Warbling Vireo and Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, this being exactly the same date that Mr. Ludlow also observed the arrival of these three species. Mrs. Trine noted the first Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak and White-crowned Sparrow on April 30.

May 1 brought the Arkansas Kingbird and Baltimore Oriole to Mrs. Trine's list, followed on May 2 by the Eastern Kingbird and Cedar Waxwing. May 4 brought the Eastern Yellow Warbler and Orchard Oriole and May 5 the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. An Eastern American Goldfinch was also observed on May 5. Mrs. Trine saw an American Bittern on May 7 and noted the arrival of the Catbird and Northern Maryland Yellow-throat on May 8. The Wood Thrush and Olive-backed Swainson Thrush were noted on May 10 and the Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo on May 12. As stated elsewhere in this issue, Mrs. Trine added the Wood Duck, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson Phalarope and Northern Phalarope on May 13, on which date she added also the Northern American Coot, Western (?) Mockingbird and Dickcissel. Other arrivals were the American Redstart (a male on the grape trellis in her yard) on May 14, Northern Bell Vireo on May 15, and American Eared Grebe, Spotted Sandpiper and Sennett (?) Nighthawk on May 17. Additions on May 20 were the Marbled Godwit and Western Lark Sparrow. A Screech Owl was seen by Mrs. Trine on May 21.

The list by Mrs. Trine beautifully supplements the list by Mr. Ludlow, so that their combination gives a good picture of the 1934 migration at Red Cloud. Mrs. Trine includes in her list sixteen species not listed by Mr. Ludlow, *viz.*, the American Eared Grebe, American Bittern, Wood Duck, Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern American Coot, Long-billed Curlew, Least Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Wilson Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Northern Purple Martin, Olive-backed Swainson Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Pine Siskin, Western Grasshopper Sparrow and Eastern White-crowned Sparrow. She gives earlier dates also for sixteen species, *viz.*, the Lesser Snow Goose, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, migrant Northern Blue Jays, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, White-rumped Loggerhead Shrike, Orchard Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, Dickcissel and Shufeldt Oregon Junco. On the other hand, Mr. Ludlow notes thirty-two species not observed by Mrs. Trine, *viz.*, Eastern Green Heron, Canada Goose (subsp.?), Common Mallard, American Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Swainson Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.?), Sandhill Crane, Franklin Gull, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Eastern Cliff Swallow, Eastern Brown Creeper, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler, Eastern Myrtle Warbler, Northern Audubon Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Eastern Cowbird, Western Blue Grosbeak, Arctic Spotted Towhee, Savannah Sparrow (subsp.?), Eastern Chipping Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Gambel Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Mr. Ludlow's dates for sixteen species, *viz.*, the Northern Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Sennett (?) Nighthawk, Western (?) Mockingbird, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Northern Bell Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, American Redstart, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.?), Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle and Western Lark Sparrow, are earlier than Mrs. Trine's, and he also gives the last date for the Eastern Slate-colored Junco.

Under date of June 28, Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Glandon of Stapleton, Logan County, have sent in their migration list for 1934. During the winter and spring the following residents and winter residents were observed by them: American Rough-legged Hawk (very common), Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Greater Prairie Chicken, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Western Horned Owl, Lewis Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Saskatchewan Horned Lark, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, English House Sparrow, Lapland Longspur and Chestnut-collared Longspur. On account of the mild weather, a few Eastern Robins and several Western Meadowlarks remained all winter, disappearing when the cold spells came and returning with milder weather. Beginning with February 1, their migration list is as follows:

Several White-rumped Loggerhead Shrikes were seen on February 1, and this species was present every month thereafter. Twenty-five or thirty Canada Geese (subsp. ?) were noted February 5. On February 11, fifty to seventy-five American Pintail Ducks were seen. It was reported to them that these ducks were present by February 1. Tree Sparrows were noted on several occasions through the month of February. A Sparrow Hawk (subsp. ?) was seen March 2, and an Eastern Slate-colored Junco on March 3. On March 5, a flock of forty-five male and one female Red-winged Blackbirds (subsp. ?) was seen. A month later a flock of about 200 females was noted. Two Western Field Sparrows were seen on March 12. On March 16, a flock of eight Whooping Cranes (*antea*, ii, p. 36) was noted, and also two American Magpies. Five Sandhill Cranes were seen on March 17. A Red-tailed Hawk (subsp. ?) was noted March 19. On March 26, the arrival of the Eastern Common Bluebird was noted, and the following day one each of the Common Red-shafted Flicker and Eastern Common Meadowlark was seen. Two Northern Killdeers were observed March 28, an Eastern Brown Creeper on March 29, and on March 30 a Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker and a Northern Shrike (subsp. ?), the latter being an addition to the Logan County list.

April 1 brought the Mountain Bluebird (four males and three females), several Bronzed Grackles and a White-crowned Sparrow. There were many Shufeldt Oregon Juncos on April 3. On April 8, many Blue-winged Teals, Shovellers and Redheads were seen, and also three Greater Yellow-legs and an Eastern Belted Kingfisher. A Western Mourning Dove and two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted on April 10. Many Brewer Blackbirds appeared on April 14. An American Black Tern was seen April 15, and on April 18 several Western Vesper Sparrows were identified, these being new to the county list. A flock of twenty-four Franklin Gulls was seen April 19. On April 20 the Song Sparrow (subsp. ?) was identified. Birds seen April 21 included three Great Blue Herons (subsp. ?), several Green-winged Teals, four Lesser Yellow-legs, a Western Burrowing Owl and an Eastern Myrtle Warbler. An Alder Trail Flycatcher arrived April 23 and a Western House Wren April 25. On April 26, two Arctic Spotted Towhees and several Gambel Sparrows were seen. A Cowbird (subsp. ?) was seen April 27. Fifteen Least Sandpipers were identified on April 29, another addition to the county list. April 30 identifications included a Northern American Coot, two Northern Blue Jays, a Tennessee Warbler and a Pale American Goldfinch.

On May 2 a dark-colored Yellow Warbler was identified as the Alaska Yellow Warbler, and on the same day a Hermit Thrush (subsp. ?) was seen, these both representing additions to the county list. May 3 ar-

rivals included two Arkansas Kingbirds, a Northern Crested Flycatcher, a Brown Thrasher and a Black and White Warbler. On May 4, one each of the Black-poll Warbler and Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak was seen. May 5 arrivals included two Eastern Nashville Warblers (new to the list) and a Chipping Sparrow (subsp. ?). Birds noted May 6 included an American Bittern, a Wilson Snipe, two American Barn Owls, an Eastern Kingbird, a Tree Swallow (new to the list), three Maryland Yellow-throats (subsp. ?) and two Bobolinks. May 7 brought a Northern Audubon Warbler (new to the list), four Lark Buntings, two Western Grasshopper Sparrows and three Western Lark Sparrows. May 9 arrivals included one each of the Red-headed Woodpecker, Olive-backed Swainson Thrush, Warbling Vireo (subsp. ?) (new to the list), Long-tailed Chat, MacGillivray Warbler (new to the list), American Redstart and Orchard Oriole. May 11 brought one each of the Upland Plover and Ovenbird. A Screech Owl (subsp. ?) and two Baltimore Orioles were seen on May 12. May 13 a Veery (subsp. ?) was noted. May 14 one each of the Sora (new to the list) and Catbird was seen. May 16 the Western Mockingbird and Wilson Pileolated Warbler were seen, one of each. Two Sennett Nighthawks were seen May 17. May 18 brought one each of the Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Barn Swallow. May 20 arrivals included two Semipalmated Plovers (new to the list), two Spotted Sandpipers, one each of the Red-eyed and Northern Bell Vireos (the latter new to the list) and two Dickcissels. A Magnolia Warbler was seen May 23 (new to the list), a Bullock Oriole on May 24, and a Dowitcher (subsp. ?) and Northern Phalarope, both new to the list, on May 27. A Lesser Scaup duck was seen on May 30.

June 2, three Northern Purple Martins were seen, this bird being also new to the list. June 4 two Western Blue Grosbeaks were noted. June 10 a Forster Tern (new to the list) and several Common Bank Swallows were seen. Mr. Glandon saw a Mountain Bluebird across the highway from the Shadonix farm on June 25.

Under date of April 16, Mrs. John Truman of Bristow, Boyd County, Nebraska, sends a list of forty-seven species of birds that she has identified in that vicinity, as follows: Common Pied-billed Grebe, Goshawk, Sparrow Hawk, Greater Prairie Chicken, Bob-white, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Northern American Coot, Northern Killdeer, Franklin Gull, Eastern Least Tern, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech Owl, Sennett Nighthawk, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Common Red-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Common Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Blue Jay, American Magpie, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, White-rumped Loggerhead Shrike, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Arctic Spotted Towhee, Western Lark Sparrow, Eastern Slate-colored Junco and Tree Sparrow.

Under date of April 18, Miss Vera Maunder of Hastings tells of a trip afield taken by her mother, Mrs. E. R. Maunder, and her sister, Mrs. C. N. Collister of North Platte, on the morning of April 13. Although the wind and dust interfered with the trip, a number of interesting birds were seen, including the Sparrow Hawk, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Saskatchewan Horned Lark, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Robin, Western Meadowlark, Eastern Cardinal, Eastern Fox Sparrow (seen near Nash's Grove along the edge of the running water), and Song Sparrow (several in song).



The Hastings *Daily Tribune* for April 18, 1934, gives an extended account of the observations of a field party headed by Director G. E. Condra of the Division of Conservation and Survey of the University of Nebraska and Secretary Frank B. O'Connell of the Game, Forestation and Parks Commission of Nebraska, and piloted by Mr. F. J. Kingsley of Minden, which visited the Great Bend region of the Platte River, between Kearney and Odessa, on April 3 in order to secure some pictures of the migrating waterfowl that were then thronging the Platte River at that point. The strip of the Platte River between Kearney and Lexington, and an area farther west through Garden and parts of Keith and Morrill Counties, are the two principal normal migration routes for these wildfowl across Nebraska. Although because of heavy clouds and a light mist that fell most of the day, the fine motion and still pictures that the party planned to secure did not exactly materialize, there was no lack of subjects, for great flocks of wildfowl passed and repassed close to the submerged blind in the river, in which the photographers and Secretary O'Connell were concealed. The press reporters for the *Tribune* with the party, Messrs. H. G. Smith and Francis Robertson, described some of their observations as follows:

"Pelicans this year are more numerous than ever. Over on the river a large flock of (White) Pelicans, the largest, in fact, seen on the Platte in these parts for many years, put on a show which was all their own. At rest in the stream, headed into the wind and as dignified as a company of soldiers at attention, they were packed so close together that from the banks they formed an unbroken strip of white. At intervals of a half hour or so all would take off. They flew in wide open ranks, up and down the river, over a strip of two or three miles, but always coming back sooner or later to the starting point. The photographers were able to register several good pictures of the pelicans despite the heavy air.

"Canada Geese, some (Lesser) Snow Geese, several species of ducks and Sandhill Cranes were present in unlimited numbers, though they were not bunched as closely as they had been during the earlier days of the northward flight. A few miles west of Odessa the party discovered a location where there were enormous flocks of cranes and geese, the latter in corn stubble on one side of the road and the cranes on the other in a meadow. Both species began coming to the location late in the afternoon. Altogether, they covered a space of many acres.

"Probably this strip of the Platte is crossed twice a year by more Sandhill Cranes than any other strip of similar length in the same latitude anywhere from coast to coast. The Whooping Crane, though now reduced almost to the vanishing point, follow the course of the sandhill variety. Swans are sometimes seen in the same strip. A couple of hundred yards from a road some (Sandhill) Cranes started a dance. This dance is a spectacular thing, possibly not as well organized and as complicated as a somewhat like maneuver which Prairie Chickens indulge in, but with fully as much action. About two dozen cranes were in the flock. They kept up a constant flapping of wings, rising several feet from the ground as they danced about their mates. Toward the end of the day a large flock of cranes, isolated from all the other birds, took off in four or five successive groups of a hundred or so each, giving an exhibition that suggested army air corps maneuvers on a grand scale. Each section split about in two, and these smaller sections, flying one above the other, circled almost directly upward until they could no longer be seen without glasses. Detachments followed about three or four minutes apart, until the last were gone. The call of the cranes filled the air from all directions, and yet for some minutes after the last of the flock had passed from sight not one of the birds could be seen. After awhile they reappeared in smaller groups, and settled down at

almost exactly the same place on the river whence they had taken off."

Under date of April 29, Mrs. J. W. Hall of Mitchell, Scotts Bluff County, comments as follows: "It has been interesting to watch the new birds come into this country during the past twenty-eight years that we have been here, and to note how rapidly they have increased. The most outstanding ones in this respect have been the Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak and the Western Maryland Yellow-throat. In 1932, from March 6 on for some time, there was quite a flock of Evening Grosbeaks at the Experimental Substation near here." Mrs. Hall adds that she saw her first Myrtle Warbler for that vicinity on the preceding day, April 28.

Under date of April 29, Mr. Cyrus A. Black of Kearney, Buffalo County, Nebraska, reports that the Sandhill Cranes began to arrive in the Kearney vicinity on March 16, and at the date of writing were still present in that locality by the thousands. He reports that at Kearney there has been much windy weather and dust, with some cold spells intermixed, and that the Blue Goose migration through that vicinity has been much below par this spring, in marked contrast with the heavy migration of these geese up the Missouri River and along the eastern edge of the state.

Under date of May 3, Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior reports that in April a pair of Eastern Cardinals built a nest on her back porch, only two feet from the door and about seven feet from the ground. The female laid two eggs, and spent most of the afternoon of April 24 on the nest. The next day she did not come near the nest at all, and an examination showed that one egg was gone. Mrs. Johnston blames the Bronzed Grackles, as there were a number of these birds in her yard, and she noted them watching the nest. She says that she has not seen or heard a Pine Siskin this year. On account of the wind and dust the past spring was a bad one for bird observation in the Superior vicinity, and not many birds were seen there.

Mrs. O. W. Ritchey of David City, Butler County, writes under date of May 5 that she with Mrs. Gartle Osterhout had taken thirty-seven children upon a bird observation field trip sponsored by the Nature Study Department of the Ingleside Club. The trip was taken chiefly in and around the David City Park with its little lake and near-by marshy ground. Nineteen species of birds were identified by the party on this trip, as follows: Eastern Green Heron, Lesser Yellow-legs, Wilson Phalarope, Western Mourning Dove, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Western House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird and Eastern American Goldfinch. Also, on April 12, Mrs. Ritchey commented on the presence of the Shufeldt Oregon Junco in that vicinity.

Under date of May 7, Mrs. Paul T. Heineman of Plattsmouth writes further concerning the birds that visited her food tray during the past winter. The Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches made their first visit to the tray on October 5, 1933, and last visited it on April 8, 1934. On October 6, 1933, a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers came, but some time in the following January the male disappeared, the female continuing to come to the tray until March 22, 1934. Mrs. Heineman says that a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers stayed in her neighborhood all through the summer of 1933, and, in July, brought their young to the suet. She has observed the Baltimore Orioles like to come to the suet, also. Both the Eastern Brown Creeper and the Eastern Slate-colored Junco first appeared at the food tray on October 17, 1933, and the former species

was last seen there this spring on April 8, and the latter species on April 9. Tree Sparrows visited the food tray only between February 27 and March 30, 1934. Up to the time of writing (May 7), a pair of Tufted Titmice, an occasional Black-capped Chickadee and an Eastern Cardinal were still coming to the tray for sunflower seeds. Mrs. Heineman mentions also that lately she has seen the males of the Northern Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse and Eastern Cardinal feeding their mates there. This spring the first Eastern Robin appeared in the Heineman yard on March 4. On March 15, four Eastern Common Bluebirds were seen and heard singing in the oaks, somewhat arousing the curiosity of the Northern Downy Woodpecker and the pairs of Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches and Tufted Titmice that were regular visitors to the yard. The Western House Wren arrived on April 18.

Mrs. Heineman writes that on April 15, 1934, she drove to the heronry near Council Bluffs, Iowa, and found ten nests of the Great Blue Heron in various stages of construction in one tree, and the same number in another tree some yards away. The birds were flying about calmly, or standing guard. The heronry was visited also on April 9, 1933, but at that time the birds were very much excited, flying about nervously and calling raucously. Stains of fresh blood were visible on the ground beneath the nests. On that occasion about fifty feet of 16 mm. cine film of the herons were taken, using a telephoto lens. On the return from the heronry, at Lake Manawa, a huge flock of White Pelicans, estimated as containing at least several hundred birds, was seen, making a beautiful sight. Other birds seen on the trip were the Sparrow Hawk, Migrant Loggerhead Shrike and Red-winged Blackbird.

Birds observed on Saturday, May 12, 1934, by the Brooking Bird Club of Hastings on the Annual Field Trip are as follows: Eastern Green Heron, American Black-crowned Night Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Marsh Hawk, Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white (Eastern ?), Florida Gallinule, Northern Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Western Burrowing Owl, Chimney Swift, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Rocky Mountain Say Phoebe, Saskatchewan Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Common Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Western House Wren, Mockingbird (Western ?), Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Swainson Thrush, Eastern Common Bluebird, Migrant Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Bell Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Eastern Myrtle Warbler, Grinnell Common Water-Thrush, Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, American Redstart, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird (subsp. ?), Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Eastern American Goldfinch, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Lark Sparrow, Eastern Chipping Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow. Total, 73 species.

Under dates of May 13 and 17, and June 8, Mrs. George W. Trine of Red Cloud, Webster County, Nebraska, reports upon a number of bird observations made in that vicinity this spring and summer. A friend reported to her that he had seen a Sora along Elm Creek during the first week in May, and also Lark Buntings and Lazuli Buntings, at about the same time, at a point some distance west of Red Cloud. On the morning

of May 13, while out driving, Mrs. Trine herself saw a number of water birds, some of them rather unusual. On an artificial spring-fed lake in a private recreation ground near Red Cloud, she saw a pair of Wood Ducks at rest on the water. When this lake was next visited, on the evening of May 17, a glimpse was had of the male Wood Duck as he silently disappeared. Mrs. Trine says that a very few Wood Ducks have nested occasionally along Elm Creek for the past ten or twelve years. Also on May 13, at a small roadside pond, Mrs. Trine noted a Least Sandpiper, three Wilson Phalaropes, three Northern Phalaropes, and a lone Long-billed Curlew. The two species of Phalaropes were in close company. They made darting, quick movements as they apparently fed on what she thought might be water bugs on the surface of the water. "When the Least Sandpiper came near the Long-billed Curlew, the latter would reach for him with that scandalous bill, as though the little fellow were some insect! The Sandpiper seemed lonesome, and so confiding."

Mrs. Trine says that this spring and summer the birds have been unusually numerous in her yard, which fact she attributes to the plenty of water on her large lawn and garden during the prevailing drouth, and the further facts that there has been ripening fruit there and that wandering cats on her premises get an unwelcome reception from a 22-caliber rifle loaded with shot shells. As to the birds noted while driving in the country, Mrs. Trine says: "It is noticeable how few birds are to be seen. A few Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds, Western Meadowlarks and blackbirds are about all. Food is scarce, and I am wondering if the birds will be forced to leave us. Many are in town, trying to find food. I notice very few insects in my garden and give the birds the credit. They follow me when I use the hose, hopeful that I will drive out some winged insect, or, perchance, toss a fat grub their way, as I often do."

So far this year, Mrs. Trine says, she has listed about fifty-four species of birds. The bird migration this spring seemed slow, and few warblers were noted. She has twenty-one pairs of Northern Purple Martins nesting on her premises, this being the one large colony in the town, as the only other colony consists of but three or four pairs of the birds. Although there are about a dozen martin houses in Red Cloud, all but these two are monopolized by the English Sparrows. Eternal vigilance in combatting the English Sparrows is the reason assigned by Mrs. Trine for her success in maintaining a large Purple Martin colony on her place. On May 16, English Sparrows so exasperated her that she "sat down with the rifle and picked off fourteen of them and then had peace for a while! That is the only effective way I have of coping with these little pests." The Martins come to her bird bath frequently for a drink, which is somewhat unusual for that species, but, as Mrs. Trine says, "shows good judgment".

In addition to the large colony of Northern Purple Martins, Mrs. Trine reports that on June 8 she had on her place numerous pairs of nesting Western Mourning Doves, six or seven pairs of second-nesting Eastern Robins, two pairs each of the Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, and one pair each of the Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Warbling Vireo and (close by and in her yard daily) Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak. She also reports the following recent experience with a pair of Northern Bell Vireos in her yard: "I had put out material for nests, as I always do for the Eastern Kingbirds, Baltimore Orioles, etc. I find the Northern Bell Vireos prefer fine ravelings and a bit of cotton while Baltimore Orioles prefer wrapping twine, preferably white (in fact, they refuse colored twine) which disproves to my entire satisfaction the contention that birds have no color sense. I am sure they *do* have it. Eastern Kingbirds are entirely satisfied with their strips of soft white

cloth, and the Eastern Robin and Catbird are not adverse to using some of the rags too. I was much amused today (May 17) watching a Catbird struggling with a staked-down twenty-foot piece of cord in a neighbor's garden. He would brace himself and pull, but had to give up that nice string eventually!"

The Omaha Evening *World-Herald* for May 14 contains an interesting story of how Mrs. N. F. Nielsen of 2204 C Street, Omaha, across the street from Spring Lake Park, noted an Eastern Carolina Wren at her bird bath one day early in May, and determined to find its nesting place in the park. For several days she continued the search for the nest, and finally found it, on May 11, in a cave-like washout in the clay side of a deep ravine, into which had been pitched many old bottles, tin cans and similar rubbish. Mrs. Nielsen found the nest by seeing the birds enter the mouth of this washout, after which it required considerable effort to get to the nest itself. But when this was attained, she found the nest, which contained four young wrens. The nest was made out of coarse grass, corn leaves, hay and similar material, and was lined with horse hair, feathers and fine grasses. Mr. Morton Downey, *World-Herald* photographer, took a picture of the nest, which was used to illustrate the story.

Under date of May 15, Mrs. Lulu Kortz Hudson of Simeon, Cherry County, reports that there was a White Pelican on the lake near their ranch home, it having arrived there a couple of days previously.

Birds observed on Wednesday, May 16, 1934, by the members of the Nature Study Department of the Fairbury Woman's Club on the Annual Field Trip are as follows: Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup, Marsh Hawk, Northern American Coot, Eastern Bob-white, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Northern Killdeer, Lesser Yellow-legs, Baird Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Franklin Gull, Western Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern (?) Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Prairie (?) Horned Lark, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Western House Wren, Mockingbird (subsp. ?), Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Common Bluebird, Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Migrant Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Bell Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Louisiana Water-Thrush, Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, Bobolink, Eastern Common Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird (subsp. ?), Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Eastern American Goldfinch, Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Lark Sparrow, Eastern Chipping Sparrow and Western Field Sparrow. Total, 75 species.

Under date of May 28, Miss Edith Bowler of Bartlett, Wheeler County, reports that for the fourth year a pair of Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks have returned to her yard, where they are regular visitors at the supply of chick feed and the water in the yard.

Under date of June 21, Mrs. J. R. Swain of Greeley, Greeley County, sends a clipping from the Greeley *Citizen* of that date, stating that a cat caught a Bronzed Grackle as it was drinking from a water tank on the farm of Henry Nekoliczak east of town, and that it bore a Biological

Survey numbered band on one of its legs. It is presumed that the band number was forwarded to Washington for record.

Under date of June 22, Miss Mary Ellsworth of Omaha, our N. O. U. President, writes that on the previous evening (June 21) Mr. William Matthews of that city found a young Northern Blue Jay, just recently out of the nest, that had developed only one wing. The right wing was fully formed and normal, but, with the feathers of the left side undisturbed, there was no obvious indication whatever of a wing there. Careful examination of the spot on the side where the left wing should be showed merely a slight projection. The other young bird from the same nest was likewise defective, for though its wings were normal it lacked a part of its beak. Mr. Matthews kept the one-winged young bird on his porch until the evening of June 22, when he devised a cage for it and placed it in a tree. The parent birds fed it continuously for the next two days, and even brought it water. They soon grew used to the presence of Mr. Matthews, and did not seem to mind his being near the unfortunate young bird, but Miss Ellsworth states that as soon as she came into the yard she heard the alarm calls of the parents, and when she ventured to pick up the young bird, she "thought they would pick my eyes out". Since the defective young bird was physically incapable of surviving independently, it was thought best to send it to Lincoln for preservation and for making a detailed scientific study of the anatomy of its highly rudimentary left wing.

Under date of June 26, Mr. William A. Wilson of Arlington, Washington County, writes that a honeysuckle vine in his yard was being visited every noon and evening by a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. He comments on their behavior as follows: "They go head-on into these long honeysuckle flowers, from which they not only get the nectar but clean the flower of insects as well. When ready to visit the next flower they come straight out, and of necessity backward, far enough to clear the way to make a dart for the next flower. These backward flights may be from five to twenty feet, according to where the next flower is. They are very rapid, considering the short distance of the flight. I wonder if the Hummingbird is the only bird capable of doing this, and how it manages so quickly to reverse its flight. The birds are almost continually on the wing, though sometimes they will alight on a wire line. So far I have not happened to see them alight on a tree or branch of any kind."

Under date of July 14, Mrs. A. H. Jones writes that at McCook, Redwillow County, on June 11, 1934, she stopped at the cemetery there to look at some birds, and found Western Lark Sparrows nesting in almost every bush. They were then feeding their young. She found the nests at varying heights; one in a cedar about four feet from the ground, and another about ten feet up in a tree. None were found on the ground, as is the more usual nesting location of this bird.

Under date of July 14, the Misses Agness and Susie Callaway reported that during the week then ending they had banded two fledgling Eastern Green Herons and two Common Bank Swallows, which brought their banding activities since October 1, 1933, to 222 individual birds, representing nineteen species.

The 1934 migration record is herewith summarized in a condensed and tabulated form, continuing the N. O. U. Cooperative Bird Migration List began in 1925. As usual, only the date of first arrival is given. This year, in addition to Lincoln, Omaha, Fairbury and Hastings, Red Cloud and Stapleton are included as representative migration stations. The authorities for the various dates are given in the preceding pages and on pages 42 to 50 of the April number of the *Review*.

NAME OF BIRD	LINCOLN	OMAHA	FAIRBURY	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	STAPLETON
American Eared Grebe					May 17	
Common Pied-billed Grebe			Apr. 26	May 7		
White Pelican				Apr. 22		
Great Blue Heron (subsp.)		May 19	Apr. 14	Apr. 4		Apr. 21
Eastern Green Heron		May 19	Apr. 20	May 4	May 13	
American Black-crowned Night Heron		May 19		Apr. 29		
American Bittern			May 27	Apr. 29	May 7	May 6
Canada Goose (subsp.)			Mar. 11	Mar. 25	Mar. 4	Feb. 5
White-fronted Goose	Mar. 25	Feb. 17		Mar. 25		
Lesser Snow Goose	Mar. 17		Mar. 11	Mar. 14	Mar. 20	
Blue Goose	Mar. 11		Mar. 11	Mar. 25		
Common Mallard	Mar. 11	May 5	Mar. 20		Mar. 4	
Gadwall	Apr. 5		Mar. 25			
Baldpate	Mar. 25	Mar. 27	Mar. 28	Apr. 15		
American Pintail	Jan. 27	Mar. 24	Feb. 6	Feb. 4	Mar. 4	Feb. 11
Green-winged Teal	Mar. 17		Apr. 15	Feb. 16		Apr. 21
Blue-winged Teal	Apr. 5		Apr. 1	Apr. 8	Mar. 4	Apr. 8
Shoveller	Mar. 11	Mar. 27	Mar. 28	Mar. 25		Apr. 8
Wood Duck					May 13	
Lesser Scaup	Mar. 11	Mar. 24	May 8	Mar. 12		May 30
Redhead	Mar. 17	Mar. 24	Mar. 27	Apr. 15		Apr. 8
Canvas-back		May 19	Mar. 28	Mar. 12		
Northern Ruddy Duck	Mar. 25			Apr. 15		
American Buff-breasted Merganser			May 8	Mar. 14		
Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk			Jan. 8		Mar. 12	
Cooper Hawk			Apr. 1	Apr. 8		
Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.)	Feb. 18		Apr. 1	Mar. 19		Mar. 19
Northern Broad-winged Hawk	May 12		Apr. 26			
Swainson Hawk				Apr. 22	May 8	
American Rough-legged Hawk	Feb. 14			Mar. 18		
Marsh Hawk	Feb. 10	May 19	Jan. 1	Apr. 8		
American Osprey		Apr. 22				
Sparrow Hawk (subsp.)	Feb. 11	Jan. 20	Feb. 16	Mar. 2	Mar. 13	Mar. 2
Whooping Crane						Mar. 16
Sandhill Crane	Apr. 5			Mar. 18	Mar. 20	Mar. 17
Northern Virginia Rail				May 28		
Sora			June 3	May 28		May 14

NAME OF BIRD	LINCOLN	OMAHA	FAIRBURY	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	STAPLETON
Florida Gallinule				May 12		
Northern American Coot	May 4	Mar. 24	Apr. 8	Apr. 21	May 13	Apr. 30
Semipalmated Plover	May 4					May 20
Northern Killdeer	Mar. 25	Mar. 24	Mar. 6	Mar. 11	Mar. 11	Mar. 28
American Woodcock	May 17					
Wilson Snipe	Apr. 5		Apr. 23			May 6
Long-billed Curlew					May 13	
Upland Plover			May 6	May 6		May 11
Spotted Sandpiper			May 15	Apr. 29	Apr. 10	May 20
Eastern Solitary Sandpiper		May 19	Apr. 26	Apr. 29		
Greater Yellow-legs				Apr. 8		Apr. 8
Lesser Yellow-legs	Apr. 5	Mar. 27	Apr. 26			Apr. 21
Pectoral Sandpiper	Apr. 5	May 19		Apr. 19		
White-rumped Sandpiper	May 13			Apr. 27		
Baird Sandpiper	Apr. 5		Apr. 20	Apr. 8		
Least Sandpiper	Apr. 22	May 19	Apr. 26	Apr. 27	May 13	Apr. 29
Dowitcher (subsp.)				Apr. 29		May 27
Stilt Sandpiper	Apr. 29					
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Apr. 22		Apr. 26	Apr. 29		
Marbled Godwit					May 20	
Hudsonian Godwit	Apr. 29					
Wilson Phalarope	Apr. 29	May 19	Apr. 26	Apr. 27	May 13	
Northern Phalarope					May 13	May 27
American Herring Gull		Mar. 27				
Ring-billed Gull	Mar. 25			Mar. 18		
Franklin Gull	Apr. 14		Apr. 3	Apr. 21	Apr. 14	Apr. 19
Forster Tern	May 13					June 10
American Black Tern		May 19		May 29		Apr. 15
Western Mourning Dove	Mar. 26	Mar. 28	Apr. 1	Mar. 26	Mar. 19	Apr. 10
Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo		May 19	May 17	May 12	May 12	May 18
Black-billed Cuckoo			May 15			
Western Burrowing Owl	Apr. 1		Apr. 6	Apr. 22		Apr. 21
Northern Short-eared Owl	Jan. 6					
Nighthawk (subsp.)		May 16	May 8	May 28	May 14	May 17
Chimney Swift	May 2	May 9	Apr. 30	May 2		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		June 3	May 25	May 10		
Eastern Belted Kingfisher		Mar. 27	Jan. 14	Apr. 8	Mar. 9	Apr. 8



NAME OF BIRD	LINCOLN	OMAHA	FAIRBURY	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	STAPLETON
Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker	Feb. 18	May 19	Feb. 26	Feb. 11	Mar. 2	Mar. 30
Common Red-shafted Flicker (migrants)				Apr. 4		Mar. 27
Red-bellied Woodpecker		Feb. 20	Jan. 8	May 4		
Red-headed Woodpecker	May 4	May 1	May 3	May 3	May 5	May 9
Eastern Kingbird	Apr. 29	May 7	Apr. 30	May 1	May 2	May 6
Arkansas Kingbird	May 17		May 1	Apr. 29	May 1	May 3
Northern Crested Flycatcher	May 12	May 19	Apr. 26	Apr. 29		May 3
Eastern Phoebe	Apr. 5	Mar. 28	Mar. 18	Apr. 8	Apr. 29	
Rocky Mountain Say Phoebe				Apr. 8		
Acadian Flycatcher		May 19				
Alder Trail Flycatcher		May 19				Apr. 23
Least Flycatcher		May 19	May 12	May 11		
Eastern Wood Pewee		May 19	May 15		May 4	
Eastern Olive-sided Flycatcher		May 19				
Tree Swallow			Apr. 8	Apr. 27		May 6
Common Bank Swallow	May 17	May 19	Apr. 19	Apr. 18	Apr. 29	June 10
Rough-winged Swallow	Apr. 29	May 19	Apr. 16	Apr. 29	Apr. 24	
Barn Swallow	Apr. 27	May 19	Apr. 20	Apr. 19	Apr. 30	May 18
Eastern Cliff Swallow			Apr. 6	May 7	Apr. 29	
Northern Purple Martin	Apr. 2	Mar. 28	Apr. 9		Apr. 1	June 2
Northern Blue Jay (migrants)			Apr. 26	Apr. 29	Apr. 26	Apr. 30
American Magpie			Jan. 31			Mar. 16
Red-breasted Nuthatch			Jan. 30			
Western House Wren	Apr. 27	May 2	Apr. 16	Apr. 27	Apr. 22	Apr. 25
Bewick Wren (subsp.)				May 5		
Mockingbird (subsp.)		May 20	Apr. 19	Apr. 8	May 2	May 16
Catbird	May 5	May 6	May 3	May 2	May 8	May 14
Brown Thrasher	Apr. 20	Apr. 29	Mar. 30	Apr. 29	Apr. 21	May 3
Eastern Robin (migrants)	Mar. 4	Mar. 9	Feb. 4	Mar. 3	Feb. 4	Wintered
Wood Thrush	May 13	May 19	May 1	May 4	May 10	
Hermit Thrush (subsp.)	Apr. 25					May 2
Olive-backed Swainson Thrush		May 19	May 6	May 6	May 10	May 9
Northern Gray-cheeked Thrush	May 24			May 7		
Veery (subsp.)						May 13
Eastern Common Bluebird	Mar. 4	Mar. 12	Feb. 6	Mar. 11	Mar. 10	Mar. 26
Mountain Bluebird						Apr. 1
Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		May 19	Mar. 30			

NAME OF BIRD	LINCOLN	OMAHA	FAIRBURY	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	STAPLETON
Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet			Apr. 17			
Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet			Apr. 6	Mar. 10		
American Common Pipit				Mar. 13		
Sprague Pipit	Apr. 26			Apr. 19		
American Bohemian Waxwing		Mar. 26	Jan. 8			
Cedar Waxwing	Mar. 28	Mar. 26	Jan. 8	Mar. 19	May 2	
Northern Shrike (subsp.)	Mar. 25	Mar. 25	Jan. 31			Mar. 30
Loggerhead Shrike (subsp.)	Apr. 1	May 19	Mar. 27	Mar. 14	Mar. 29	Feb. 1
Northern Bell Vireo		May 6	May 6	May 3	May 14	May 20
Yellow-throated Vireo	May 20	May 19	May 8			
Red-eyed Vireo	May 12	May 19	May 15	May 7	May 10	May 20
Warbling Vireo (subsp.)	Apr. 30	May 19	Apr. 29	May 3	Apr. 29	May 9
Black and White Warbler		May 19		Apr. 29	May 10	May 3
Tennessee Warbler	May 12	May 19	Apr. 30			Apr. 30
Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler		May 19		Apr. 27	May 3	
Eastern Nashville Warbler						May 5
Yellow Warbler (subsp.)	May 1	May 1	May 3	May 3	May 4	May 2
Magnolia Warbler						May 23
Eastern Myrtle Warbler		May 5	Apr. 26	Apr. 27	May 1	Apr. 21
Northern Audubon Warbler					May 1	May 7
Black-throated Green Warbler	May 24					
Black-poll Warbler		May 19	May 8	May 6	May 7	May 4
Western Palm Warbler				May 4		
Ovenbird	May 8	May 19				May 11
Grinnell Common Water-Thrush		May 19	May 8	May 12		
Louisiana Water-Thrush			May 5			
MacGillivray Warbler						May 9
Kentucky Warbler		May 19				
Maryland Yellow-throat (subsp.)		May 19	May 5	May 3	May 1	May 6
Chat (subsp.)	May 12		May 15	May 13		May 9
Wilson Pileolated Warbler						May 16
American Redstart	May 12	May 19	May 6	May 12	May 7	May 9
Bobolink			May 15	May 3		May 6
Eastern Common Meadowlark	Mar. 25	May 5	Apr. 17	Mar. 18		Mar. 27
Western Meadowlark	Feb. 14	Feb. 14	Mar. 6	Mar. 11	Mar. 12	Wintered
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Apr. 29		Apr. 26	Apr. 21		Apr. 10
Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.)	Mar. 12	Mar. 24	Mar. 3	Mar. 10	Feb. 5	Mar. 5

NAME OF BIRD	LINCOLN	OMAHA	FAIRBURY	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	STAPLETON
Orchard Oriole		May 19	May 6	May 11	May 4	May 9
Baltimore Oriole	May 2	May 3	May 1	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	May 12
Bullock Oriole						May 24
Rusty Blackbird	Feb. 18		Jan. 13			
Brewer Blackbird	Apr. 5			Apr. 29		Apr. 14
Bronzed Grackle		Mar. 19	Mar. 19	Mar. 28	Mar. 12	Apr. 1
Cowbird (subsp.)	Apr. 5	May 19	Mar. 11	Apr. 27	Mar. 12	Apr. 27
Scarlet Tanager		May 19	May 15			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 8	May 19	Apr. 17	May 6	May 5	
Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak			May 6	May 2	Apr. 30	May 4
Western Blue Grosbeak			May 15	May 12	May 7	June 4
Indigo Bunting	May 12	May 19	May 15			
Dickcissel	May 4	May 3	May 3	May 12	May 13	May 20
Eastern Purple Finch		Feb. 11				
Northern Pine Siskin		Jan. 27			Apr. 14	
Red Crossbill			Apr. 6			
Red-eyed Eastern Towhee		Apr. 7	Jan. 16	Apr. 22	Apr. 29	
Arctic Spotted Towhee	Apr. 28		Apr. 14	Apr. 27	May 8	Apr. 26
Lark Bunting				May 18		May 7
Savannah Sparrow (subsp.)	Apr. 22		Apr. 6	Apr. 8	May 5	
Western Grasshopper Sparrow		May 19	Apr. 20	May 3	Apr. 28	May 7
Leconte Sparrow	Apr. 8					
Vesper Sparrow (subsp.)	Apr. 22		Apr. 1	Apr. 14		Apr. 18
Lark Sparrow (subsp.)	May 13		Apr. 11	Apr. 8	Apr. 23	May 7
Eastern Slate-colored Junco (last seen)					Mar. 12	Mar. 3
Shufeldt Oregon Junco					Apr. 2	Apr. 3
Eastern Chipping Sparrow	Apr. 15	Apr. 7	Apr. 17	Apr. 27	Apr. 14	May 5
Clay-colored Sparrow	May 8		Apr. 6	Apr. 30		
Field Sparrow (subsp.)	Apr. 8	Apr. 3	Apr. 1	Apr. 17		Mar. 12
Harris Sparrow	Apr. 14	Jan. 20	Jan. 1	Jan. 29	Jan. 13	
Eastern White-crowned Sparrow			Apr. 27	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	Apr. 1
Gambel Sparrow			Apr. 27	Apr. 27	May 4	Apr. 26
White-throated Sparrow			May 8	Apr. 29	May 4	
Eastern Fox Sparrow				Apr. 13		
Common Lincoln Sparrow	Apr. 14		Apr. 15	Apr. 29		
Swamp Sparrow			Apr. 17			July 1
Song Sparrow (subsp.)			Mar. 16	Apr. 2		Apr. 20

## HERE AND THERE WITH THE N. O. U. MEMBERS

Mr. George Blinco of Chadron, Nebraska, reports under date of May 14 that he would not be able to attend the N. O. U. annual meeting at Omaha this year because he was getting ready to start about June 1 with his wife and son for a trip to the Big Horn Mountains and Yellowstone Park, to be gone about twenty days. Mr. Blinco enclosed with his letter a splendid picture of a nest of the American Magpie which he found in a clump of deerberry bushes and says that their favorite nesting place is in the thorny bushes. The nest measures about two feet in width and three feet in height, and is roofed over with an opening at the side.

The Omaha Nature Study Club enjoyed two delightful and interesting Sunday field trips on June 3 and 10, through the kindness of Mrs. N. F. Nielsen, 2204 C Street, Mr. F. J. De la Vega, 70th and Grover Streets, and Mr. O. L. Stoltenberg, Florence Station. Mrs. Nielsen led the Club into Spring Lake Park, to hear the Eastern Carolina Wren, whose nest she had found earlier in the season in this park (see page 82 of this issue of the *Review*), and to see the several other nests of various species which she then had under observation. On the beautiful farm of Mr. Stoltenberg, on June 10, the Club members were shown the nest of an American Barn Owl, in a graded bank on well-traveled highway No. 36, and a nesting pair of Arkansas Kingbirds, which are as yet uncommon in the vicinity of Omaha. Mr. Stoltenberg also has had a pair of Eastern (?) Mockingbirds on his farm for at least the past five years, the male of which has the habit of frequently perching on Mr. Stoltenberg's water tower at night and singing whenever a light is turned on in the house during the night. Mr. Stoltenberg also showed the Club members a collection of mounted birds taken by him and his brothers during pioneer days. These include three Golden Plovers, taken on his farm, and Wood Ducks, American Avocets and Caspian Terns taken on the Missouri River near Blair, in Washington County. Forty-eight live wild geese, including the Greater Canada, Lesser Canada, White-fronted, Lesser Snow and Blue Geese, and a number of American Pintail Ducks, have the run of the larger part of Mr. Stoltenberg's farmyard. The Eastern Lark Sparrow was also found nesting on this date by members of the Club. The objective at the home grounds of Mr. De la Vega was the nest of a pair of Eastern (?) Mockingbirds in an elm sapling about five feet from the ground and only about thirty feet from the house. This is the second year that Mr. De la Vega has had Mockingbirds in the vicinity of his house, and he is confident that there must be a second pair this year. He has also noted an Arkansas Kingbird near his home since the Club visited there. It is the hope of the Omaha Nature Study Club that with these beginnings the Arkansas Kingbird and the Mockingbird will become firmly established as regular nesting species in the Omaha vicinity.

Under date of June 17, Mr. George E. Hudson, of the Department of Zoology of the University of Nebraska, who left Lincoln with his family early in June to study the breeding birds and collect bird material in South Carolina for Clemson College, the data to be used in a report on the birds of that state projected by Professor Franklin Sherman, reports that he has established his headquarters at Clemson and started his summer's work. "I have been engaged on my collecting work for a week now", he writes, "and already have obtained some rather interesting data. I have seen the Cairns Warbler and Cowbird, neither of which is known to breed in South Carolina. About every other day I make a trip to one of the mountains in the northwestern part of the state. These mountains are mostly remote, unsettled, forested regions. They range in altitude up to 3,600 feet, hence some northerly forms breed there. These include the Ruffed Grouse, Mountain Solitary Vireo, Worm-

eating Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Scarlet Tanager. Ravens formerly bred there and perhaps still do. I hope to find that out. This week I expect to climb Mount Pinnacle, where Mr. Leveritt M. Loomis worked about forty-five years ago. I hope to collect Cairns Warbler in the rhododendron thickets. You may be interested to know that four years ago I sent Professor Sherman two live specimens of the common thirteen-striped ground squirrel, one of which was mounted and the other escaped. About a week ago I saw the escaped one on the Clemson College campus, and it appeared to be thriving."

Our President, Miss Mary Ellsworth, wrote on June 22 that after July 1 she would be in attendance at the Alleghany School of Natural Science in the Alleghany State Park, Quaker Bridge, New York.

Mrs. A. H. Jones writes on July 14, from Evergreen, Colorado, where she is summering, that from her observation point on her cabin porch she could see nests of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Northern Violet-green Swallow, Western House Wren, Western Robin (two of these) and Western Chipping Sparrow, as well as the last season's nest of a Plumbeous Solitary Vireo. A short distance away was another nest of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird, this one built on a low-hanging spruce bough by the edge of the river, and quite close to a bridge. At the date of writing it contained two young. On July 12, a male Rufous Hummingbird perched on the light wire within fifteen feet of the porch. This was the second Rufous Hummingbird that Mrs. Jones had seen in Colorado, the other one having been observed, however, on the other side of the Divide. On July 7, in the same pine tree, she noted the Western Wood Pewee, Western Robin, Western Tanager, Cassin Purple Finch, Northern Pine Siskin and Western Chipping Sparrow, most of them feeding their young.

Our honorary member, Mrs. H. F. Hole of Crete, is sojourning this summer at Underhill, Vermont, where she finds the mountain air and cool nights most invigorating, and has renewed her acquaintance with a number of the breeding birds of that part of New England. Under date of July 16, she reports: "While I cannot get out to tramp after the birds very much, they come to me. Both the Acadian and the Least Flycatchers are quite common here. I have had a lot of fun with the swallows — Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows and Eastern Cliff Swallows — all sitting on the wires at the same time and indulging in occasional bickerings. With my young nephew I watched the latter species build their nests under the eaves of a big hay barn. Along the creeks I find the Veery, and the Bobolinks are in all of the meadows. An Eastern Nashville Warbler sings every morning in a little apple tree near my window. My big thrill, however, was a pair of Kentucky Warblers that I found near the river one day. I have tried to remember the song of this bird, which I recognized immediately as different from that of the Northern Maryland Yellow-throat. I find the Eastern Vesper, White-throated, Common Lincoln and Eastern Song Sparrows resident here through the summer. I am enjoying the study of ferns again, and have listed twenty-one varieties. They are not as elusive as the birds."

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#### MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held at Omaha, Nebraska, on Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19, 1934. At this meeting the members of the N. O. U. were the guests of the Omaha Nature Study Club and the Pontenelle Forest Association. The Board of Trustees of the Society of Liberal Arts, in charge of the Joslyn Memorial, located on Dodge Street between 22nd and 24th Streets,

just west of the Central High School, graciously accorded to the N. O. U. the privilege of holding its meetings in that beautiful new building.

The members began assembling at 10:00 A. M. in the room in the Joslyn Memorial where the special exhibit of the N. O. U. was set up, registering at the registration table as they arrived. The first business session was called to order by President Mrs. L. H. McKillip at 11:00 A. M. in the Lecture Hall of the Memorial. The minutes of the thirty-fourth annual meeting as published on pages 90 to 104 of the *Nebraska Bird Review* for July, 1933, were approved, after which President McKillip and Vice-President Mary Ellsworth each gave brief and informal official reports. Secretary-Treasurer M. H. Swenk next reported, his report dealing with the condition of the organization. The most important statements of this report may be summarized as follows:

"In July of 1933, the total membership for the year ending May 1, 1934 (1933-34), was 133 (8 honorary and 125 active), as explained in the footnote on page 91 of the July, 1933, number of the *Review* and also as given in the membership roll of the N. O. U. in the same issue (*antea*, i, pp. 105-107). That was the largest enrollment the N. O. U. has had for many years, and was due to an intensive drive for membership on the part of several N. O. U. members. Unfortunately, we were not able to retain all of these new members for the year 1934-35. Three members, Mr. F. C. Collins, Mrs. A. T. Hill and Dr. R. H. Wolcott were lost by death during the year. Thirty-three members did not renew their membership for 1934-35. These were Mesdames Roscoe C. Abbott, Jessie Dettman, H. L. Fabrique, John G. Hansen, C. A. Heartwell, Ruth Howard, A. M. Jones, D. P. Jones, J. H. LeRoy, William Madgett, Jesse Marian, Wade R. Martin, Mervin Ross, Paul Schmeling, Lou Sharpe, Mary Belle Shook and Dwight Thomas; Misses Margaret Chambers, Martha Cousley, Margaret Diemer, Edith Ogle and Grace Stillwell; Messrs. Ralph R. Brosius, H. P. Doole, Fred Fouts, J. Woodward Jones, F. J. Keller, W. J. Kent, C. E. McCafferty and F. X. Rudloff; and the Brooking Bird Club, Hastings Public Library and Seward Public Library. On the other hand there have been three reinstatements, Mrs. J. W. Hall of Mitchell, McGill University Library at Montreal and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Sheldon of Lincoln, which brings the old membership to exactly 100. Twenty-six names of applicants for membership are before us, and with the election of these our membership for 1934-35 will be restored to 126, a net loss of seven members for this year, as compared with last.\*

"On May 1, 1933, the N. O. U. had cash on hand of \$298.13, to which was added during the fiscal year to May 1, 1934, \$2.00 for one annual dues for 1932-33, \$60.00 for sixty annual dues for 1933-34, \$90.00 for ninety annual dues for 1934-35, and \$2.00 for two advance annual dues for the year 1935-36. There was also added during this period \$4.00 for subscriptions to the *Review* for the year 1933, \$21.00 for subscriptions for 1934, \$2.00 for subscriptions for 1935 and 1936, \$13.50 for publications sold and \$42.50 from interest on investments, making total receipts of \$535.13. Of this amount, \$37.37 was spent for postage, \$6.00 for stationery, \$375.88 for printing the July and October, 1933, and January and April, 1934, numbers of the *Review*, \$22.35 for engravings for these numbers, and .36 as a tax on eighteen checks, leaving a balance on hand, on May 1, 1934, of \$94.76.

"The July and October, 1933, and the January and April, 1934, numbers of the *Nebraska Bird Review* have continued to be well received, both by our members and by ornithologists and bird lovers, not members, both within and without the state. The four numbers of Volume I of the *Review*, totalling 160 pages, were gotten out in editions of 300 copies for

\*The names and addresses of these 126 members are given in the membership list on a following page.—Ed.

the April and July numbers and 350 copies for the January and October numbers. They cost \$456.60 for printing and \$24.77 for engraving, a total of \$481.07. The cost per copy has varied from twenty to fifty-two cents, an average of thirty-seven cents. The 1934 volume will be planned to run a fewer number of pages, probably around 148, with a corresponding reduction in the per copy cost. The more members we are able to secure, and the more subscriptions to our magazine, the more pages of the *Review* can be printed each year.

Following the report of the Secretary-Treasurer, President McKillip appointed the following committees to report at the postponed business session called for 1:30 P. M.: *Auditing*, Mr. Fred Eastman (Chairman) and Mr. Dana Anderson; *Nominating*, Mrs. O. D. Corey (Chairman) and Mrs. J. D. Fuller; *Resolutions*, Mrs. Glen Chapman (Chairman) and Miss M. Caryle Sylla. The meeting then adjourned to reconvene at 1:30 P. M.

The proposal of names and election of new members was first in order of regular business at the afternoon session. Twenty-six names were then proposed for membership in the N. O. U., as follows: Misses Bertha Calvert, Marjorie Disbrow, Ellen Mahoney and Mayme Philpot and Messrs. Ben L. Cash, D. B. Marshall and Henry Scherer of Omaha; Messrs. Watson E. Beed, T. J. Fitzpatrick and John L. Morrison of Lincoln; Mrs. Paul T. Heineman of Plattsmouth; Mrs. R. E. Norris of Weeping Water; Mrs. Charles W. Anderson of Arlington; Mrs. Walter Ren of Oak; Mr. Clyde E. Pearson of Genoa; Mrs. Dana Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Fischer of St. Edward; Mr. W. E. Brooks of Elgin; Mr. I. R. Alter of Grand Island; Mr. George Back of Gothenburg; Mesdames Carl Collister and A. H. Bivans, Miss Frances Kimball, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Collman and Harry Weakley of North Platte; and Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Glandon of Stapleton. On motion of Miss Mary Ellsworth, seconded by Mr. Fred Eastman, all were accepted and declared members of the society.

Reports of committees were next called for. Mr. Fred Eastman reported for the Auditing Committee that the financial report of the Secretary-Treasurer had been examined and found to be correct. On motion the report of the Auditing Committee was approved and adopted. The Nominating Committee then reported through its Chairman, Mrs. O. D. Corey, proposing the following officers for 1934-35: President—Miss Mary Ellsworth, Omaha; Vice-President—Mr. L. M. Gates, Lincoln; Secretary-Treasurer—Prof. M. H. Swenk, Lincoln. On motion this report was unanimously approved, and the Secretary was authorized to cast the ballot of the society for the persons nominated by its committee. The Resolutions Committee requested that its report be postponed until after the banquet, which request was granted by the President.

New business being in order at this point, the 1935 meeting-place was discussed. The Secretary-Treasurer extended an invitation for the N. O. U. to meet in Lincoln in May, 1935. On motion of Mr. Fred Eastman, the determining of the place of meeting for 1935 was left to the Executive Committee, which was instructed to be in a receptive mood toward any invitation to join with the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in a joint meeting at Sioux City in May, 1935. The N. O. U. also pledged its cooperation with the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the Sioux City Bird Club in making the proposed meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at Sioux City in the fall of 1936, a success.

The business meeting being concluded at 2:00 P. M., a tour of the Joslyn Memorial building was made by the members, following guides provided especially for the N. O. U. by the Joslyn Memorial, and ending with the N. O. U. exhibit room. Every one expressed pleasure in this opportunity to view to advantage this splendid building.

The afternoon program in the Lecture Hall began at 3:00 P. M. with an interesting address of welcome by Mayor Roy N. Towl of Omaha, a

charter member and Vice-President of the Fontenelle Forest Association. Mr. Towl emphasized the value of bird study as a means of the individual employing leisure time with great returns, both physically and educationally. A fitting response was made by President McKillip. At 3:15 P. M., Mr. George Scheer of Council Bluffs, Iowa, in a scholarly paper, discussed "Prince Maximilian of Wied from the Historical Viewpoint", pointing out some of the errors regarding the history of this period that have come to be more or less generally accepted. This was followed by a discussion of "Prince Maximilian of Wied as a Nebraska Ornithologist" by Prof. M. H. Swenk at 3:45 P. M., in which some of the observations on Nebraska birds made by this pioneer ornithologist as he passed up and again down the Missouri River, along the eastern boundary of our state, between April 26 and May 13, 1833, and again between May 5 and 14, 1834, were given. At 4:00 P. M., Mr. Frank T. B. Martin of Omaha showed moving pictures of "The Forest Lawn Bird Sanctuary". This was followed at 4:20 P. M. by a most enjoyable lecture on "Wild Flowers of the Fontenelle Forest", beautifully illustrated with colored slides, by Mr. Victor Overman of Omaha. The program was concluded by a practical talk on "Trees of the Nebraska Forests", by Mr. Fred Eastman of Omaha, beginning at 4:40 P. M. Adjournment came at 5:10 P. M.

In connection with this meeting, a special exhibit was set up in one of the rooms of the Joslyn Memorial, close to the Lecture Hall where the programs were held. This exhibit was open from 10:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. on both Friday and Saturday. It included a display of devices for attracting birds to bird sanctuaries and to homes, such as bird boxes, feeding trays and bird baths, provided through the courtesy of our N. O. U. members, Messrs. Dana Anderson and H. J. Fischer of St. Edward. Several new numbers in the series of water-color bird paintings that are being prepared for the projected publications of the N. O. U. on the birds of Nebraska by Miss Iva Swenk were represented by a selection of subjects. A series of photographs of living birds, by Mr. Thomas R. Gardner, and of wild flowers by Mr. Victor Overman, both of Omaha, were also on display. Through the courtesy of the Omaha Public Library there was an exhibit of bird books, including John J. Audubon's *Birds of America*, published in New York in eight volumes, in 1839, with 70 colored plates, and Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology*, published in three volumes, in London, in 1776. Last, but far from least, may be mentioned an exhibit relating to the century-ago visit to Nebraska of the ornithologist Prince Maximilian of Wied. This Maximilian exhibit included a copy of the original German edition of the *Reise in das Innere Nord-Amerika*, with the accompanying large portfolio, including some Nebraska views, owned by the Nebraska State Historical Society, and also a bust of Prince Maximilian which Dr. Addison E. Sheldon, Secretary of the Nebraska State Historical Society, obtained at his palace on the Rhine in December, 1918. Both of these extraordinary exhibits were made possible through the courtesy of Dr. Sheldon. There was also an exhibit of quotations from Maximilian's book, as translated by Dr. Sheldon and published in his *History and Stories of Nebraska*, shown with his permission, giving the beautiful and poetic descriptions by Maximilian of the primeval Nebraska forest and its life, which was then barely touched by the white man's ax and was still dominated by the Indians. These quotations were illustrated by a dozen or more water color paintings, made especially for this exhibit by Mr. Thomas R. Kimball, Omaha's widely known architect and artist, and a charter member of the Fontenelle Forest Association, and his pupils. Maps, paintings and photographs of the Fontenelle Forest Reserve were shown, this Reserve having been created to preserve as far as possible a remnant of this primeval forest for future generations.

The annual N. O. U. banquet was held at 6:30 P. M. at the Knights of



Columbus Club, 2027 Dodge Street, which is almost directly across the street from the Joslyn Memorial. Forty-seven persons were present. At the close of the dinner, those present were vastly entertained by a humorous Swedish dialect talk by our member, Mrs. R. E. Chesebrough of Omaha, who is "Hilda", familiar to listeners over KOIL on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 1:15 P. M. and 2:00 P. M., and occasionally also over KFAB. President McKillip then called for the report of the Committee on Resolutions, and through the Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. Glen Chapman, the following were presented:

Whereas, the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union is now holding its thirty-fifth annual meeting in Omaha, and has been the recipient of many courtesies and kindnesses, therefore be it

Resolved, that we extend our grateful appreciation and heartiest thanks to the trustees of the Society of Liberal Arts, in charge of the Joslyn Memorial, for the use of that beautiful building for our meetings; to Mr. Roy N. Towl, Mayor of Omaha, and to the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Omaha, for their cordial welcome to us and for our badges; to the Fontenelle Forest Association and the Omaha Nature Study Club, whose committee, Mr. L. O. Horsky, Mr. Fred Eastman, Mr. Martin E. Larson, Miss Elizabeth Rooney and Miss Mary Ellsworth, have by their efficient planning, made this one of our most educational as well as enjoyable conventions; to Miss Iva Swenk for her remarkable exhibit of water color bird paintings; to Dr. Thomas Gardner for his series of photographs of living birds; to Mr. Victor Overman for his series of wild flower photographs; to Mr. Dana Anderson for his display of devices for attracting birds to bird sanctuaries and to homes; to Dr. Addison E. Sheldon and to Mr. George Scheer for their courtesy in loaning the Maximilian exhibit; to Mr. Thomas R. Kimball for his water color paintings, and the maps and photographs supplementing the Maximilian exhibit; to the Colorado Museum of Natural History through Director J. D. Figgins and Mr. R. J. Niedrach, and to the National Museum of Canada through Acting Director W. H. Collins, for the courtesy of loaning us the reels of pictures of bird life for our evening program; and to all local citizens who have assisted in the program and helped to make our stay enjoyable; and

Whereas, during the year we have mourned the passing of Mr. F. G. Collins, whose voice was often heard in radio bird talks; Mrs. A. T. Hill, one of our newer members; and Dr. R. H. Wolcott, a pioneer in Nebraska ornithology; therefore be it

Resolved, that we express our appreciation of their membership in the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, and of their interest and helpfulness in our organization, as well as our sense of deep loss in their passing; and be it also

Resolved, that the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union express its general approval of the conservation program of the Nebraska State Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, and of its efficient Secretary, Mr. Frank B. O'Connell, whose interest in Nebraska bird life and its conservation is recognized, and that we recommend to the Commission and the Governor the retention of the services of this able public servant; and

Whereas, the Omaha Nature Study Club at its meeting on May 6, 1934, adopted the following resolutions:

"Whereas, the destruction of sea birds and fish is steadily increasing, and has now reached the point where it has become a fearful scourge, by reason of the discharge of oils from oil burning vessels at sea and in harbors, and

"Whereas, this evil cannot be checked without the cooperation of other nations, therefore be it

"Resolved, that the good offices of President Roosevelt be sought with

a view to having the subject considered by the League of Nations, to secure concerted action by the United States and foreign countries;" therefore be it

Resolved, that the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union endorse this action of the Omaha Nature Study Club and join with it in urging the action indicated.

On motion, the resolutions as read were approved and adopted, after which the members made their way back to the Joslyn Memorial for the evening program.

At 7:30 P. M., through the courtesy of Director J. D. Figgins and our honorary member Mr. R. J. Niedrach, both of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, and also through the courtesy of the National Museum of Canada, especially of Acting Director W. H. Collins of that institution, there were shown seven reels of bird life in the Lecture Hall of the Joslyn Memorial. The three reels from the Colorado Museum of Natural History showed splendidly scenes in the life history of the Common Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern King Rail, Northern American Coot, Piping Plover, Northern Killdeer, Upland Plover, American Black Tern, Prairie Horned Lark, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Robin, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow and Song Sparrow. The photography was the work of Messrs. Alfred M. Bailey and R. J. Niedrach. The four reels of Canadian bird life were taken by Mr. P. A. Taverner, Dominion Ornithologist. Two reels dealt with "Some Birds of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence", and illustrated the Double-crested Cormorant, Common Cormorant, Gannet, Eider Duck, American Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Razor-billed Auk, Black Guillemot, Common Murre and Puffin. The two other reels of Canadian bird life dealt with the Holboell Red-necked Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson Hawk, Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Northern American Coot, yellow-legs, Dowitcher, godwits, Wilson Phalarope, Franklin Gull, American Black Tern, Nighthawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Say Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, Common Rock Wren, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Red-winged Blackbird. Over 400 people viewed these films, and expressed much pleasure over them. They were interpreted by a running comment by M. H. Swenk. When, at 8:30 P. M. a short recess was taken to permit those who so desired to attend a concert being given at that hour by the Matinee Musicale of Omaha, in the Concert Hall of the Joslyn Memorial, only a relatively small number of persons in the audience elected not to remain through these moving pictures of bird life.

Thirty-six members of the N. O. U. were present at this thirty-fifth annual meeting, as follows: Mesdames Dana Anderson, C. W. Andrews, A. H. Bivans, Lily R. Button, Glen Chapman, R. E. Chesebrough, Carl Collister, O. D. Corey, Jessie Dettman, H. J. Fischer, John D. Fuller, Paul T. Heineman, L. O. Horsky, Ruth Howard, H. C. Johnston, A. H. Jones, E. R. Maunder, L. H. McKillip, O. W. Ritchey, Addison E. Sheldon and M. H. Swenk; Misses Emma Ellsworth, Mary Ellsworth, Elizabeth Rooney, Mary St. Martin, Elfie Swanson, M. Caryle Sylla and Florence Taylor; and Messrs. Dana Anderson, L. C. Denise, Fred Eastman, H. J. Fischer, L. O. Horsky, Martin E. Larson, Henry Scherer and M. H. Swenk. Guests of members attending the programs or the banquet included Mrs. Fred Eastman, Mrs. Greer, Miss Jeannette McDonald, Miss Alma Peters, Miss Sasstrom, Miss Scott, Dr. Mabel Sasstrom and Mr. Frank Howard, all of Omaha; Mrs. J. R. Vinchel of Arlington; Mrs. Blanche Scott Lee of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Miss Iva Swenk of Lincoln; Miss Mary E. Nothomb of Wahoo; and Miss Rose M. Anderson of St. Edward.

MYRON H. SWENK, *Secretary-Treasurer*, N. O. U.

REPORT ON THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL FIELD DAY  
OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

On Saturday, May 19, the Thirty-second Annual Field Day of the N. O. U. was held. The day was entirely clear and quite warm, reaching 95° F. during the hottest part of the day. There was a moderate south wind. The field party numbered about sixty persons. The start was made in two groups, one at 6:00 A. M. and the other at 6:30 A. M., both from Dodge Street just south of the Joslyn Memorial. Visit was made to the 700-acre Fontenelle Forest Reserve and the adjoining 1500-acre Dr. Harold Gifford Estate. Provision was made both for those desiring a strenuous walk through the forest and for those wishing to limit their walking. Noonday lunch was served at Camp Gifford, Omaha's Boy Scout camp, with the Omaha Nature Study Club as hosts. In the afternoon, the nesting colonies of Eastern Great Blue and American Black-crowned Night Herons on the Gifford Estate on the Iowa side of the river were visited, and a trip made to Carter Lake for a study of the water birds. The heat and drouth detracted greatly from the enjoyment of the Field Day, and reduced the number of species of birds observed.

The composite list for the day totalled 79 birds, as follows: Eastern Great Blue Heron, Eastern Green Heron, American Black-crowned Night Heron, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Marsh Hawk, Eastern Bob-white, Eastern Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Wilson Phalarope, American Black Tern, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern (?) Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Trail Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Olive-sided Flycatcher, Common Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Eastern Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Swainson Thrush, Eastern Common Bluebird, Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Migrant Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Bell Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Ovenbird, Grinnell Common Water-Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, American Redstart, Western Meadowlark, Eastern Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Eastern American Goldfinch, Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Chipping Sparrow and Western Field Sparrow.

An all-day field trip by auto was held on Sunday, May 20, in conjunction with the Omaha Nature Study Club and the Rocks and Minerals Association of Omaha. The joint parties met in front of the Joslyn Memorial on Dodge Street between 23rd and 24th Streets at 9:00 A. M. and proceeded by automobile to Meadow, Sarpy County, and thence west along the Platte River to the State Fish Hatcheries six miles west, noting the bird life on this scenic drive. From the Fish Hatcheries return was made to Meadow, where the Platte River was crossed and a visit made to the nesting colony of the Eastern Cliff Swallow in the vicinity of Louisville, at which locality the interesting and commercially important rock and sand formations were studied. From Louisville, the party proceeded on south to the Weeping Water vicinity, to note the bird life along picturesque Weeping Water Creek and to view carboniferous lime-

stone, polished and grooved by glacial action. From there the drive was made east to the vicinity of Nehawka to study rock formation in quarry and the ancient Indian houses and flint mines. These latter were explained by Dr. Robert F. Gilder, the pioneer Nebraska archeologist of Omaha. The Indian house sites are estimated to be at least 500 years old. Dr. G. H. Gilmore was secured to address the group at the site of one of the Indian houses recently opened by him. As local director, Mr. Victor Overman led in the study of the rock formations on this annual field day of the Rocks and Minerals Association.

MEMBERSHIP ROLL OF THE NEBRASKA  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

HONORARY MEMBERS

*Bruner, Prof. Lawrence, 3033 Deakin Street, Berkeley, California.	1900
Grinnell, Dr. Joseph, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California	1932
Hole, Mrs. H. F., 1610 Ivy Street, Crete, Nebraska	1919
Loveland, Mrs. G. A., River Road, Norwich, Vermont	1901
Niedrach, Mr. Robert J., Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado	1932
Oberholser, Dr. H. C., 2805 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.	1924
Stephens, Dr. T. C., Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa	1911
Zimmer, Mr. John T., American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York, New York	1907

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Ellsworth, Miss Mary, 3107 Redick Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska.....	1917
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Hart, Mrs. Charles K., Prosser, Nebraska.....	1925
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Jones, Mrs. A. H., 1114 North Denver Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska.....	1924
Jones, Mr. Harold C., 352 West College Street, Oberlin, Ohio.....	1933
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Koch, Mrs. H. C., 1620 Otoe Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.....	1931
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Larson, Mr. Martin E., 3320 Burt Street, Omaha, Nebraska.....	1925
Lionberger, Mrs. Earle L., 333 Kansas Avenue, Superior, Nebraska.....	1925

Ludlow, Mr. Charles S., R. R. No. 4, Box 137, Red Cloud, Nebraska	1912
McCreary, Mr. Otto, Agricultural Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming	1930
McKillip, Mrs. L. H., 149 North 15th Street, Seward, Nebraska	1919
Mahoney, Miss Ellen, 2104 Davenport Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1934
Marsh, Mr. William, 4157 Davenport Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1933
Marshall, Mr. D. B., 5211 Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1934
Mauck, Miss Ruth M., Box No. 7, Nelson, Nebraska	1933
Maunder, Mrs. E. R. and Miss Vera, 818 Ash Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska	1933
Mitchell, Dr. C. A., 2565 Crown Point Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska	1926
Mitchell, Miss Lucy, 930 Idaho Street, Superior, Nebraska	1933
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Nason, Miss Helen, 745 North 57th Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska	1933
Norris, Mrs. R. E., Weeping Water, Nebraska	1933
Northrup, Mrs. David, 2720 Ames Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska	1933
Omaha Public Library, Miss Blanche Hammond, Librarian, Omaha, Nebraska	1907
Overing, Mr. Robert, Landover, Maryland	1928
Pearson, Mr. Clyde E., c/o First National Bank, Genoa, Nebraska	1934
Philpot, Miss Mayme, 3621 South 24th Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1934
Ren, Mrs. Walter, Box 144, Oak, Nebraska	1933
Richardson, Mrs. Charles, Fairbury, Nebraska	1924
Ritchey, Mrs. O. W., David City, Nebraska	1933
Robbins, Miss Ida L., 1941 B Street, Lincoln, Nebraska	1933
Rooney, Miss Elizabeth, 2802 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1915
St. Martin, Miss Mary, 244 Chestnut Street, Wahoo, Nebraska	1920
Scherer, Rev. Henry, 4324 Marcy Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1934
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Slocum, Miss June M., 4512 South 22nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1925
Smith, Mr. and Mrs. George O., 1837 C Street, Lincoln, Nebraska	1923
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Stipsky, Mr. Joseph E., Hooper, Nebraska	1928
Swain, Mrs. J. R., Greeley, Nebraska	1926
Swanson, Miss Elfie, 119 North 40th Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1933
*Swenk, Mr. and Mrs. Myron H., 1410 North 37th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska	1900
Sylla, Miss M. Caryle, 808 North Denver Avenue, Hastings, Ne- braska	1928
Taylor, Miss Florence (Omaha Public Library), 2618 Davenport Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1931
Taylor, Miss Mollie A., Battle Creek, Nebraska	1930
Timmler, Mr. Rudolph, 3136 North 57th Street, Omaha, Nebraska	1933
*Tout, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Tribune Printing Company, North Platte, Nebraska	1900
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Turner, Mr. Harold, Route 2, Bladen, Nebraska	1933
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Weakley, Mr. and Mrs. Harry, Experimental Substation, North Platte, Nebraska	1934
Wilson, Miss Louisa E., 3103 South 35th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska	1924
Wilson, Miss Susan, 1010 First National Bank Building, Omaha, Nebraska	1933
Wing, Mr. M. J., Associated Press, Lincoln Star Building, Lincoln, Nebraska	1933

PUBLISHED LISTS OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA

1878. Notes on the Nature of the Food of the Birds of Nebraska. By Prof. Samuel Aughey. First Report of the United States Entomological Commission, Appendix ii, pp. 13-62. Washington: Government Printing Office. Lists 251 native species and subspecies.
1888. A Catalogue of Nebraska Birds Arranged According to the Check List of the American Ornithological Union. (By) W. Edgar Taylor, State Normal, Peru, Nebraska. Annual Report of the State Board of Agriculture for the Year 1887, pp. 111-118. Lincoln, Neb.: State Journal Company. Lists 314 species and subspecies.
- 1888-89. Notes on Nebraska Birds. By W. Edgar Taylor and A. H. Van Vleet, Peru, Nebraska. Ornithologist and Oologist, xiii, No. 4, pp. 49-51 (April); No. 11, pp. 169-172 (November); xiv, pp. 163-165 (November). (No more published). Notes on 137 native species and subspecies.
1896. Some Notes on Nebraska Birds. (By) Lawrence Bruner. Annual Report of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society for the Year 1896, pp. 48-178. Lincoln, Neb.: Published by the State. Reprinted under same title with addition of: A List of the Species and Subspecies Found in the State, with Notes on their Distribution, Food-Habits, etc. Corrected to April 22d, 1896. Lists 415 native species and subspecies.
1904. A Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska With Synopses. By Lawrence Bruner, Robert H. Wolcott (and) Myron H. Swenk. Annual Report Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for the Year 1903, pp. 1-127 (separately paged from body of report). Omaha, Neb.: Klopp & Bartlett Co. Reprinted, with revisions, in separate form. Lists 399 native species and subspecies.
1908. Field Check-List of Nebraska Birds. (By Myron H. Swenk). Published by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, pp. 1-4. July, 1908. Lists 404 native species and subspecies.
1909. An Analysis of Nebraska's Bird Fauna. By Robert H. Wolcott. Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. iv, part 2, pp. 25-55, plates i-v. August 25, 1909. Lists 404 native species and subspecies.
1915. The Birds and Mammals of Nebraska. By Myron H. Swenk. The Nebraska Blue Book and Historical Register (for) 1915, pp. 835-855. A Publication of the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau, Addison E. Sheldon, Editor, Lincoln. Lists 418 native species and subspecies.
1918. The Birds and Mammals of Nebraska. By Myron H. Swenk. *Ibidem* (for) 1918, pp. 392-411. Reprinted as Contribution of the Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, No. 23, pp. 1-21; March, 1919. Lists 427 native species and subspecies.
1920. The Birds and Mammals of Nebraska. By Myron H. Swenk. *Ibidem* (for) 1920, pp. 464-483. Lists 431 native species and subspecies.
- Present (unpublished) list is 461 native species and subspecies.

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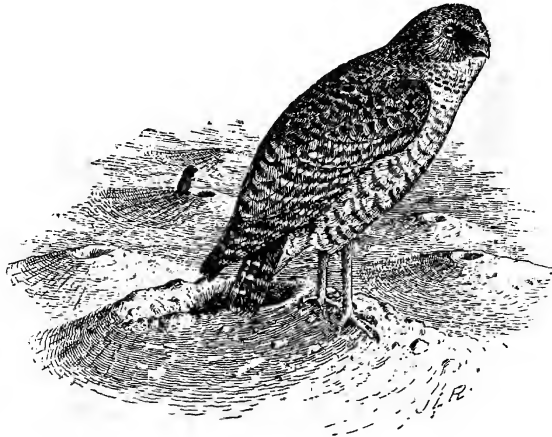


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OCTOBER, 1934

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# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

A Review of Nebraska Ornithology

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Actual date of publication, October 19, 1934

# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

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A SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE MEASUREMENTS OF  
404 NEBRASKA SPECIMENS OF GEESE OF THE  
*BRANTA CANADENSIS* GROUP, FORMERLY  
CONTAINED IN THE D. H. TALBOT  
COLLECTION

By PHILIP A. DUMONT and MYRON H. SWENK

During the falls of 1884, 1885 and 1886, and the spring of 1885, the late D. H. Talbot and his collectors secured a series of 593 specimens of the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) from the Mississippi Valley area, this probably comprising the largest series of this type of goose ever assembled from a single region. Four hundred and four of these specimens were collected in central Nebraska, twenty-six were taken in northwestern Iowa, and a few were secured in South Dakota and Texas. The remainder were without data. These specimens were stored for some time in packing cases on the Talbot farm near Sioux City, Iowa, prior to the donation of the entire series to the Museum of Natural History of the University of Iowa in the late 1880's or very early 1890's. During this period of storage many of the specimens became grease-burned, dermestids caused depredations among them, and labels became soiled or lost. In 1923, Professor C. C. Nutting, Director of the Museum, gave a series of thirty-two of these specimens (twenty-two of which were from Nebraska) to the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Later the residue of the series was removed from the Museum and burned.

Fortunately, a complete record of these geese has been preserved in a thesis written by Frank Russell at the University of Iowa in 1892. This dissertation, entitled "Variation of Birds in a State of Nature", contains measurements of 500 of the Canada Geese. It contains also, incidentally, measurements of 250 selected specimens of meadowlarks from Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas; of 100 specimens of the Bob-white from the same states; of fifty specimens of the Snowy Owl from Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota; of twenty-five specimens of the Man-o'-war-bird from Texas, and so on. All of the specimens listed were secured by or through Mr. Talbot. While the purpose of Russell's thesis was to corroborate Darwin's theory of individual variation, as opposed to the doctrine of special creation, still its greatest value is in the preservation of these measurements.

In Russell's thesis the total length of the bird, as measured in the flesh, was taken from the field label. A summary of these measurements of total length discloses that three males, three females, and six of unindicated sex, had a length of between 23 and 25 inches; that one hundred and thirteen males, one hundred and twenty-five females, and fifty-seven of unindicated sex, had a length of between 25 and 34 inches; and that twenty-five males, seven females, and ten the sex of which was not indicated, had a length of between 34 and 42 inches. But the measurements of the lengths of the wing, exposed culmen, tarsus and middle toe were all taken by Russell directly from the specimens themselves.

As to the accuracy of Russell's measurements of these specimens, it may be stated that Dr. H. C. Oberholser recently verified the measurements of four of the specimens from Iowa. Two of his wing measurements agreed exactly with Russell's figures; the other two Dr. Oberholser found to be .13 inch and .20 inch greater, respectively, than the measurements given by Russell. Culmen measurements agreed nicely, but Russell's tarsal figures were a little high. On the whole, however, it is evident that reliance can be placed in the approximate accuracy of Russell's measurements. The measurements, as taken by Russell, of the wing, exposed culmen and tarsus of the 404 Nebraska specimens are given below in inches, under the number assigned by him to each specimen, together with the sex of the same where it was indicated on the original label, arranged in order from smallest to largest.

TABLE 1. Measurements in Inches of the Wing, Culmen and Tarsus of 404 Specimens of Geese of the *Branta Canadensis* Group Taken by Frank Russell and Recorded in His Thesis.

Russell's Number	Sex	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus	Russell's Number	Sex	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus
46	—	12.50	1.50	2.70	383	♂	15.00	1.60	2.90
246	—	13.50	1.50	2.60	256	♂	15.00	1.60	3.00
201	—	13.75	1.40	2.70	412	♂	15.00	1.60	3.30
441	—	14.00	1.50	2.40	182	♂	15.00	1.70	3.00
235	—	14.00	1.60	2.80	307	♂	15.00	1.70	3.00
244	—	14.00	1.60	2.80	427	♂	15.00	1.70	3.00
184	—	14.00	1.70	2.70	64	♂	15.00	1.70	3.10
263	—	14.00	1.70	2.90	192	—	15.00	1.70	3.10
145	—	14.00	1.80	3.00	264	♂	15.00	1.70	3.10
252	—	14.50	1.50	2.90	272	♂	15.00	1.70	3.10
284	—	14.50	1.50	3.00	410	♂	15.00	—	3.10
50	—	14.50	1.60	2.70	411	♂	15.00	1.70	3.10
142	—	14.50	1.60	2.80	262	♂	15.00	1.80	3.00
89	—	14.50	1.70	3.00	398	♂	15.00	1.90	3.00
440	—	14.70	1.40	2.70	495	♂	15.00	2.50	3.10
12	—	14.75	1.50	2.60	332	♂	15.25	1.50	2.90
374	—	15.00	1.30	2.80	203	♂	15.25	1.50	2.80
245	—	15.00	1.40	2.80	178	—	15.25	1.60	3.00
196	—	15.00	1.40	2.90	291	♂	15.25	1.60	3.00
279	—	15.00	1.40	2.90	282	♂	15.25	1.60	3.10
312	—	15.00	1.40	2.90	305	♂	15.25	1.60	3.10
260	—	15.00	1.40	3.00	117	♂	15.25	1.80	3.00
343	—	15.00	1.40	3.00	166	♂	15.25	2.00	3.00
60	—	15.00	1.50	2.70	87	♂	15.50	1.40	2.60
287	—	15.00	1.50	2.70	55	♂	15.50	1.40	2.80
104	—	15.00	1.50	2.80	298	♂	15.50	1.40	2.70
207	—	15.00	1.50	2.80	151	♂	15.50	1.40	3.10
270	—	15.00	1.50	2.80	27	♂	15.50	1.50	2.60
294	—	15.00	1.50	2.80	5	♂	15.50	1.50	2.70
304	—	15.00	1.50	2.80	148	♂	15.50	1.50	2.70
226	—	15.00	1.50	2.80	419	♂	15.50	1.50	2.70
238	—	15.00	1.50	2.90	255	♂	15.50	1.50	2.80
258	—	15.00	1.50	2.90	429	♂	15.50	1.60	2.50
259	—	15.00	1.50	2.90	20	♂	15.50	1.60	2.70
318	—	15.00	1.50	2.90	35	♂	15.50	1.60	2.70
134	—	15.00	1.50	3.00	367	♂	15.50	1.60	2.70
334	—	15.00	1.50	3.00	118	♂	15.50	1.60	2.90
397	—	15.00	1.50	3.00	268	♂	15.50	1.60	2.90
45	—	15.00	1.60	2.80	176	♂	15.50	1.60	3.00
261	—	15.00	1.60	2.90	372	♂	15.50	1.60	3.10
315	—	15.00	1.60	2.90	61	♂	15.50	1.70	2.70

## ANALYSIS OF 404 CANADA GEESE FROM NEBRASKA 105

Russell's Number	Sex	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus	Russell's Number	Sex	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus
71	♂	15.50	1.70	2.80	198	♀	16.00	1.60	3.10
78	♂	15.50	1.70	2.80	232	♀	16.00	1.60	3.10
83	♂	15.50	1.70	3.10	275	♀	16.00	1.60	3.10
354	♂	15.50	1.70	3.10	324	♀	16.00	1.60	3.10
99	♂	15.50	1.70	3.20	327	♀	16.00	1.60	3.10
103	♂	15.50	1.80	2.90	352	♀	16.00	1.60	3.10
181	♂	15.50	1.80	3.00	309	♀	16.00	1.60	3.20
386	♂	15.50	1.80	3.00	162	♀	16.00	1.60	3.50
468	♂	15.50	1.80	3.20	368	♀	16.00	1.70	2.80
464	♂	15.50	1.80	3.30	59	♀	16.00	1.70	2.90
223	♂	15.50	1.80	3.50	135	♀	16.00	1.70	2.90
399	♂	15.50	1.90	3.30	363	♀	16.00	1.70	2.90
420	♂	15.60	1.50	3.10	31	♀	16.00	1.70	3.00
36	♂	15.75	1.50	2.40	113	♀	16.00	1.70	3.00
316	♂	15.75	1.50	3.00	141	♀	16.00	1.70	3.00
32	♂	15.75	1.60	2.80	317	♀	16.00	1.70	3.00
54	♂	15.75	1.60	2.80	85	♀	16.00	1.70	3.10
28	♂	15.75	1.60	2.90	96	♀	16.00	1.70	3.10
1	♂	15.75	1.65	2.70	167	♀	16.00	1.70	3.10
497	♂	15.75	1.70	2.90	173	♀	16.00	1.70	3.10
395	♂	15.75	1.80	2.80	131	♀	16.00	1.70	3.20
221	♂	15.75	1.80	3.10	177	♀	16.00	1.70	3.30
128	♂	16.00	1.20	3.00	379	♀	16.00	1.70	3.30
7	♂	16.00	1.40	2.80	430	♀	16.00	1.70	3.40
211	♂	16.00	1.40	2.90	233	♀	16.00	1.80	3.00
348	♂	16.00	1.40	2.90	239	♀	16.00	1.80	3.00
170	♂	16.00	1.50	2.80	445	♀	16.00	1.80	3.10
161	♂	16.00	1.50	2.90	56	♀	16.00	1.80	3.20
189	♂	16.00	1.50	2.90	300	♀	16.00	1.80	3.20
236	♂	16.00	1.50	2.90	47	♀	16.00	1.80	3.30
115	♂	16.00	1.50	3.00	310	♀	16.00	1.80	3.30
150	♂	16.00	1.50	3.00	111	♀	16.00	1.80	3.40
229	♂	16.00	1.50	3.00	112	♀	16.00	1.90	3.10
314	♂	16.00	1.50	3.00	147	♀	16.00	1.90	3.10
385	♂	16.00	1.50	3.00	285	♀	16.00	1.90	3.20
394	♂	16.00	1.50	3.00	406	♀	16.00	2.00	3.00
428	♂	16.00	1.50	3.00	391	♀	16.00	2.20	3.70
158	♂	16.00	1.60	2.70	458	♀	16.00	2.30	4.00
146	♂	16.00	1.60	2.80	273	♀	16.10	1.90	2.90
44	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	53	♀	16.25	1.40	2.90
58	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	331	♀	16.25	1.50	2.80
80	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	2	♀	16.25	1.50	2.90
228	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	8	♀	16.25	1.50	3.00
253	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	303	♀	16.25	1.50	3.10
254	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	11	♀	16.25	1.60	2.70
281	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	185	♀	16.25	1.60	3.00
350	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	271	♀	16.25	1.60	3.10
414	♂	16.00	1.60	2.90	160	♀	16.25	1.70	3.10
93	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	322	♀	16.25	1.70	3.20
95	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	179	♀	16.25	1.70	3.30
102	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	62	♀	16.25	1.70	4.00
119	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	408	♀	16.25	1.80	3.00
183	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	204	♀	16.25	1.80	3.10
217	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	94	♀	16.25	1.80	3.20
286	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	70	♀	16.50	-	3.20
302	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	213	♀	16.50	1.50	2.80
306	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	292	♀	16.50	1.50	2.80
413	♂	16.00	1.60	3.00	79	♀	16.50	1.50	3.00

Russell's Number	Sex	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus	Russell's Number	Sex	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus
431		16.50	1.50	3.00	405	♂	17.00	1.50	3.30
439		16.50	1.50	3.00	42		17.00	1.60	2.90
209		16.50	1.60	2.80	154		17.00	1.60	3.00
432		16.50	1.60	2.90	345		17.00	1.60	3.20
110		16.50	1.60	3.00	433		17.00	1.60	3.30
194		16.50	1.60	3.00	9		17.00	1.70	2.90
242		16.50	1.60	3.00	57		17.00	1.70	3.00
283		16.50	1.60	3.00	378		17.00	1.70	3.00
353		16.50	1.60	3.10	338		17.00	1.70	3.10
120		16.50	1.60	3.20	346		17.00	1.70	3.10
392		16.50	1.60	3.20	77		17.00	1.70	3.20
422		16.50	1.60	3.20	347		17.00	1.70	3.20
251		16.50	1.60	3.30	52		17.00	1.70	3.30
23		16.50	1.70	2.80	449		17.00	1.70	3.30
39		16.50	1.70	3.00	472		17.00	1.70	3.30
297		16.50	1.70	3.00	100		17.00	1.80	2.80
366		16.50	1.70	3.00	105		17.00	1.80	3.00
171		16.50	1.70	3.10	296		17.00	1.80	3.00
224		16.50	1.70	3.10	95		17.00	1.80	3.10
401		16.50	1.70	3.10	68		17.00	1.80	3.20
127		16.50	1.70	3.20	205		17.00	1.80	3.20
499		16.50	1.70	3.20	247		17.00	1.80	3.20
340		16.50	1.70	3.30	337		17.00	1.80	3.20
197		16.50	1.70	3.40	267		17.00	1.80	3.30
200		16.50	1.80	2.70	492		17.00	1.80	3.30
122		16.50	1.80	3.00	342		17.00	1.80	3.40
165		16.50	1.80	3.10	434		17.00	1.80	3.40
174		16.50	1.80	3.10	335		17.00	1.80	3.50
76		16.50	1.80	3.20	404		17.00	1.80	3.60
157		16.50	1.80	3.60	152		17.00	1.90	3.10
101		16.50	1.90	2.80	478		17.00	1.90	3.20
69		16.50	1.90	2.90	108		17.00	1.90	3.40
90		16.50	1.90	3.20	361		17.00	1.90	3.40
339		16.50	1.90	3.20	447		17.00	1.90	3.40
206		16.50	1.90	3.30	459		17.00	1.90	3.40
344		16.50	1.90	3.40	467		17.00	1.90	3.40
231		16.50	2.00	3.30	149		17.00	2.00	3.30
24		16.75	1.50	2.80	114		17.00	2.10	3.40
237		16.75	1.50	3.00	107		17.00	2.20	3.20
25		16.75	1.60	2.60	438		17.00	2.20	3.50
40		16.75	1.60	2.80	172		17.00	2.20	4.00
74		16.75	1.60	2.80	234		17.20	1.90	3.40
180		16.75	1.60	3.00	210		17.25	1.40	3.10
19		16.75	1.70	2.90	341		17.25	1.60	3.00
15		16.75	1.70	3.00	126		17.25	1.80	3.10
129		16.75	1.70	3.00	227		17.25	1.80	3.10
63		16.75	1.70	3.20	30		17.25	1.90	3.00
355		16.75	1.70	3.30	257		17.25	1.90	3.20
73		16.75	1.80	2.80	461		17.25	1.90	3.20
3		16.75	1.80	2.85	187		17.25	2.00	3.40
10		16.75	1.80	3.00	288		17.40	1.90	3.00
138		16.75	1.80	3.00	396		17.50	1.50	3.30
13		16.75	1.80	3.20	155		17.50	1.60	3.10
109		16.75	1.80	3.30	92		17.50	1.60	3.20
290		16.75	1.80	3.30	488		17.50	1.60	3.20
299		16.75	1.80	3.30	415		17.50	1.70	2.90
222		16.75	1.80	3.60	29		17.50	1.70	3.00
248		17.00	1.50	2.80	402		17.50	1.70	3.10

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<i>Russell's Number</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Culmen</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>	<i>Russell's Number</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Culmen</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>
469	♀	17.50	1.70	3.10	75	♂	18.00	1.90	3.60
26	♂	17.50	1.70	3.20	132	♂	18.00	2.00	3.40
381	♂	17.50	1.70	3.30	388	♂	18.00	2.00	3.40
471	♂	17.50	1.70	3.30	208	♂	18.00	2.00	3.50
311	♂	17.50	1.80	3.10	289	♂	18.00	2.00	3.50
336	♂	17.50	1.80	3.20	365	♂	18.00	2.00	3.50
486	♂	17.50	1.80	3.20	443	♂	18.00	2.00	3.50
144	♂	17.50	1.80	3.30	446	♂	18.00	2.00	3.50
156	♂	17.50	1.80	3.30	450	♂	18.00	2.00	3.50
18	♂	17.50	1.80	3.40	16	♂	18.00	2.00	3.60
186	♂	17.50	1.80	3.40	462	♂	18.00	2.00	3.70
421	♂	17.50	1.80	3.40	483	♂	18.00	2.10	3.30
143	♂	17.50	1.90	3.30	436	♂	18.00	2.10	3.60
230	♂	17.50	1.90	3.30	373	♂	18.00	2.20	3.30
382	♂	17.50	1.90	3.30	277	♂	18.10	1.70	3.20
444	♂	17.50	1.90	3.30	320	♂	18.10	1.70	3.20
140	♂	17.50	1.90	3.40	409	♂	18.25	—	3.30
163	♂	17.50	1.90	3.50	265	♂	18.50	1.60	3.30
49	♂	17.50	2.00	3.30	88	♂	18.50	1.70	3.20
362	♂	17.50	2.00	3.30	490	♂	18.50	1.80	3.70
470	♂	17.50	2.00	3.30	426	♂	18.50	1.90	3.40
466	♂	17.50	2.00	3.40	457	♂	18.50	2.00	3.70
460	♂	17.50	2.00	3.50	387	♂	18.50	2.40	3.90
403	♂	17.50	2.10	3.60	475	♂	18.50	2.50	4.00
485	♂	17.50	2.20	3.70	153	♂	18.75	2.20	3.70
212	♂	17.75	1.70	3.10	452	♂	18.75	2.50	4.00
21	♂	17.75	1.70	3.20	496	♂	19.00	1.50	4.10
202	♂	17.75	1.80	3.20	491	♂	19.00	1.70	3.60
390	♂	18.00	1.70	3.00	465	♂	19.00	2.00	3.60
219	♂	18.00	1.70	3.10	116	♂	19.00	2.10	3.50
407	♂	18.00	1.70	3.70	330	♂	19.00	2.10	3.50
4	♂	18.00	1.75	3.00	38	♂	19.00	2.20	3.60
349	♂	18.00	1.80	3.20	437	♂	19.00	2.20	3.60
463	♂	18.00	1.80	3.20	474	♂	19.00	2.30	4.00
225	♂	18.00	1.80	3.30	425	♂	19.25	2.00	3.50
250	♂	18.00	1.80	3.30	489	♂	19.25	2.10	3.70
364	♂	18.00	1.80	3.40	451	♂	19.50	2.10	3.50
308	♂	18.00	1.80	3.50	423	♂	19.60	2.00	3.50
481	♂	18.00	1.80	3.60	476	♂	19.75	2.40	4.00
384	♂	18.00	1.80	3.70	393	♂	20.00	2.30	3.80
356	♂	18.00	1.90	3.10	482	♂	20.00	2.40	3.90
328	♂	18.00	1.90	3.20	484	♂	20.50	2.10	4.20
82	♂	18.00	1.90	3.30	477	♂	20.50	2.20	4.00
137	♂	18.00	1.90	3.30	448	♂	21.00	2.10	3.90
329	♂	18.00	1.90	3.40	473	♂	21.00	2.50	4.20

The complex relationships and definition of the various named forms of the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) have long been a source of much puzzlement to ornithologists. As recognized at the present time in the fourth edition of the *A. O. U. Check-List*, all forms (five in number) are treated as subspecies of *Branta canadensis*. With the two Pacific Coast forms, both of which have the breast and underbody dark-colored ("hair brown" of Ridgway, *vide* Taverner, 1931)—the larger *B. c. occidentalis* (White-cheeked Goose), practically resident on the southeastern Alaskan Coast from north of Prince William Sound south to the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia, and the much smaller true *B. c. minima* (Cackling Goose), which breeds on the Bering Sea Coast and Aleutian Islands of northwestern Alaska west of Point Barrow, and winters on the Pacific Coast from British Columbia to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys of California, occurring only occasionally inland east of the Cascades, in British Columbia) and not known to occur at all east of the Rocky Mountains—this study obviously has no relation. It does, however, have to do with the remaining three recognized (all light-breasted) forms which are to be found as migrants over the Missouri Valley, including Nebraska, and which in the case of the typical form (*B. c. canadensis*) formerly occurred not only as a common spring and fall migrant but also as a breeding bird on the islands in the Missouri and Platte Rivers and at the lakes in the sandhills of the state, and still remains on large bodies of open water throughout mild winters.

These three forms are (1) the large Common Canada Goose (*B. c. canadensis*), which breeds across the North American continent from northern Labrador, northern Quebec, Mackenzie and upper Yukon south to Newfoundland, central Quebec, northern Ontario, the northern parts of South Dakota, Colorado, Utah and Nevada and northwestern California (formerly to Tennessee, Arkansas, Iowa and Nebraska) and west to the central part of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, wintering chiefly in the United States, south to Florida, the Gulf Coast and southern California; (2) the intermediate-sized Lesser Canada Goose (*B. c. leucopareia*), until recently known as the Hutchins Goose (a name now relegated to the following form), which breeds on the Arctic Coast of Alaska, Yukon and Mackenzie east to the west coast of Hudson Bay and on Southampton Island at its northern end, and southward for an undetermined distance, migrating south through the interior west of the Great Lakes and along the Pacific Coast to winter from northern Washington to southern Mexico; and (3) the very small true Hutchins Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*), which breeds on Southampton Island, southern Baffin Land, Melville Peninsula, and probably other parts of eastern Arctic America, migrating through Hudson Bay, southern Manitoba and the Mississippi Valley (casually to the southern Atlantic Coast) to its winter home on the Gulf Coast of Mexico.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Taverner, P. A. A Study of *Branta canadensis* (Linnaeus) The Canada Goose. *Annual Report of the National Museum of Canada* for 1929, pp. 30-40, pl. 1 (head), fig. 1 (of bills). Ottawa, 1931.

<sup>2</sup>J. L. Peters, in his *Check-List of Birds of the World*, 1, p. 150 (1931), does not separate *B. c. leucopareia* and *B. c. hutchinsii*, but applies the latter name to both.



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The chief characters, other than quality of voice, action and habits, for differentiating between these three forms of *Branta canadensis* are those relating to size, since they are all similar as to coloration. Measurements of wing length, length of exposed culmen and length of tarsus are all available in the Russell record of the Nebraska series. The following table summarizes these measurements as ascribed to these three forms, compiled from several authoritative sources.

TABLE 2.—Measurements in Inches of the Wing, Culmen and Tarsus Assigned by Several Authorities to Three Forms of *Branta Canadensis*.

Authority	Form	Wing Length	Exposed Culmen	Tarsus
Ridgway <sup>1</sup>	<i>hutchinsii</i>	13.60—14.50	.95—1.15	2.40—2.75
	<i>leucopareia</i>	14.75—17.75	1.20—1.90	2.25—3.20
	<i>canadensis</i>	15.60—21.00	1.55—2.70	2.45—3.70
Coues <sup>2</sup>	<i>hutchinsii</i>	13.75—14.75	circ. 1.00	—
	<i>leucopareia</i>	15.00—17.00	1.50	? —3.00
	<i>canadensis</i>	18.00—20.00	circ. 2.00	3.00—3.50
Swarth <sup>3</sup>	<i>leucopareia</i>	15.31—17.90 (16.47)	1.31—1.72 (1.53)	—
	<i>canadensis</i>	16.43—20.84 (19.68)	1.84—2.28 (2.09)	—
Forbush <sup>4</sup>	<i>leucopareia</i>	14.75—17.93	1.20—1.50	2.25—3.20
	<i>canadensis</i>	15.60—21.00	1.55—2.80	2.40—4.10
Taverner <sup>5</sup>	<i>hutchinsii</i>	13.56—14.56 (14.25)	1.19—1.37 (1.25)	2.62—2.75 (2.65)
	<i>leucopareia</i>	14.56—17.50 (15.81)	1.47—1.68 (1.53)	2.75—3.40 (3.08)
	<i>canadensis</i>	15.93—19.62 (18.37)	1.84—2.12 (2.00)	3.13—3.90 (3.40)

<sup>1</sup> Measurements from Robert Ridgway's *Manual of North American Birds*, p. 117; 1887. His "*hutchinsi*" is referred to *leucopareia* and his "*minima*" measurements are cited as a combination of *hutchinsii* and true *minima*.

<sup>2</sup> Measurements from Elliott Coues' *Key to North American Birds*, fifth edition, pp. 904-905; 1903. Names referred as in Ridgway.

<sup>3</sup> Measurements taken from Swarth's paper "A Study of a Collection of Geese of the *Branta Canadensis* Group from the San Joaquin Valley, California (*University of California Publications in Zoology*, xii, No. 1, pp. 1-24, pls. 2, figs. 8, November 20, 1913), and translated from millimeters into inches. Swarth's "*hutchinsi*" measurements are properly to be referred to *leucopareia*, but those of *minima* are not referable to *hutchinsii*, as that form is believed not to winter in California. The extremes are based on thirty-six specimens of *leucopareia* and forty-one of *canadensis*, the averages on ten male specimens of each form.

<sup>4</sup> Measurements taken from E. H. Forbush's *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, pp. 292 and 295; 1925. His "*hutchinsi*" = *leucopareia*.

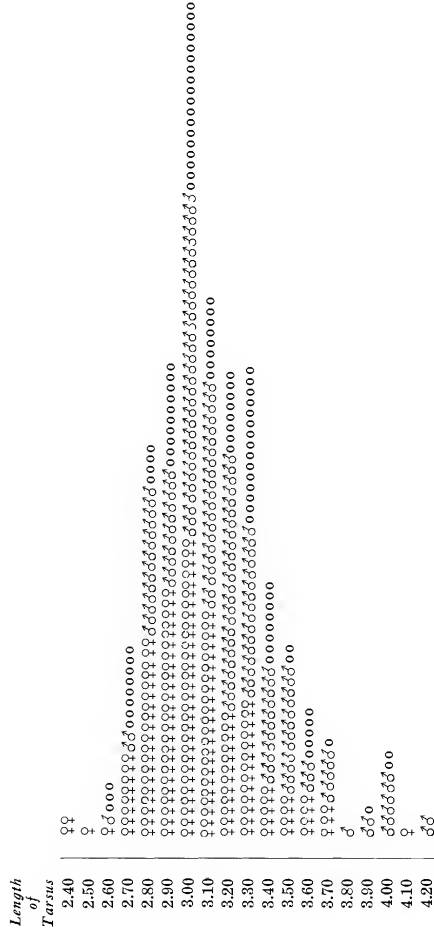
<sup>5</sup> Measurements taken from Taverner's paper (*op. cit.*) and translated from millimeters to inches. Measurements based on eight specimens of *hutchinsii* and fourteen each of *leucopareia* and *canadensis*.

As the first step toward analyzing the applicability of these rather widely variable size criteria, advanced by the five authorities cited, for the differentiation of the mentioned three forms of *Branta canadensis*, it is helpful to tabulate in gradated groups Russell's measurements of the length of the wing, culmen and tarsus, with sex indicated where known. In thus tabulating the wing lengths (Table 3), a gradated progression of .25 inch has been adopted, since the great majority of his measurements of the wing length fall into such groupings. In the cases of eight exceptions, when the wing measurements as given by Russell is either .10 inch greater than the nearest gradated .25 inch group (5 cases), or .05 inch (2 cases), or .10 inch (1 case) less than the nearest .25 inch group, the tabulated Russell measurement is here made to conform to the nearest .25 inch group, it being regarded that this much difference was not unlikely well within his limits of error in measuring. However, for the sake of accuracy in the record, these eight exceptions may specifically be cited as follows: One (No. 440, sex ?) from 14.70 to 14.75; one (No. 420, ♀) from 15.60 to 15.50; one (No. 273, sex ?) from 16.10 to 16.00; one (No. 234, ♂) from 17.20 to 17.25; one (No. 288, ♀) from 17.40 to 17.50; two (Nos. 277 and 320, both ♂♂) from 18.10 to 18.00; and one (No. 423, ♂) from 19.60 to 19.50. In the table of measurements of exposed culmen (Table 4), where the gradated progression is in .10 inch groups, only two changes have been necessary, viz., one (No. 1, ♀) from 1.65 to 1.60; and one (No. 4, sex ?) from 1.75 to 1.70. In the tarsal measurements (Table 4), which likewise are in gradations of .10 inch, the only change (No. 3, sex ?) is a change of 2.85 to 2.80. It should also be mentioned that while the tables of wing length and of tarsal length involve 404 specimens, that of length of culmen involves only 101 specimens, because in the case of three specimens (Nos. 70, sex ?; 409, ♂; and 410, ♀) the length of the culmen was not given by Russell.

It is obvious in a glance at Tables 3 and 4 that there is no trenchant line of division, as to size, between the three forms of *Branta canadensis* under consideration. From the extremes in wing length it seems obvious that all three of the forms are represented in the Nebraska series. It is equally obvious that the larger number are of intermediate size, thus indicating a preponderance of *B. c. leucopareia* in the series. The main difficulty is in deciding just where to draw the line between the three forms which thus so obviously overlap in measurements. The largest ones (with the wing over 19 inches) are certainly all old males of *B. c. canadensis*. Smaller males, and females in increasing numbers, referable to *canadensis*, appear as the wing size drops below 19 inches for an inch. At 17.50 and 17.75 inches, males again preponderate. These might be called either small *canadensis* or the larger individuals of *leucopareia*. Females again appear in increasing trend, as the size drops from 17.5 inches to 15 inches, though around the average size (16 inches) the sexes approach equality in numbers. All this would seem to argue for Coues' minimum of an 18-inch wing for really typical *canadensis*. Below 15 inches the specimens are too few, and too few of them are sexed, to follow this analysis very clearly, but as no authority refers specimens with a wing length of 14.50 inches or less to *leucopareia*, the fourteen specimens in that group may probably safely be referred to *B. c. hutchinsii*; and to these may be added the two with the wing measuring 14.75 inches and a very short-billed (No. 374, ♀; culmen 1.30 inch) individual in the 15-inch wing length group. It is noteworthy at once that even the smallest birds in this Nebraska series in the character of wing length have bills too long for the culmen length typically ascribed to *hutchinsii*, and that the tarsal length also may in some specimens run too high, although this latter may in part be due to Russell's method of measuring the tarsus. Ascribing 14.75 inches as the maximum wing length for *hutchinsii*, unless a slight excess over that figure is accompanied by an unusually short culmen, and 18 inches as the minimum for







really typical *canadensis*, we would have in these 404 specimens, 17 specimens referable to *hutchinsii*, 62 to typical *canadensis* and 325 to the intermediate form, *leucopareia*, which is probably a very fair approximation of the truth. This would give the scale of measurements for the three forms shown in the following table:

TABLE 5. Extremes and Averages of Measurements in Inches of the Wing, Culmen and Tarsus of 404 Specimens of Geese of the *Branta Canadensis* Group, Based on the Russell Measurements of the Talbot Collection and Segregated as to Forms and Sexes.

Form	Number of Specimens				Extreme and Average Measurements	
	♀	♂	?	Total		
<i>hutchinsii</i>	6	2	9	17	wing, ♀?, 12.50-15.00 (14.08); ♂?, 13.75-14.75 (14.42)	
	(6 ♀?, 3 ♂?)				culmen, ♀?, 1.30-1.80 (1.50); ♂?, 1.40-1.60 (1.47)	
					tarsus ♀?, 2.40-3.00 (2.79); ♂?, 2.60-2.80 (2.70)	
<i>leucopareia</i>	130	124	71	325	wing, ♀, 15.00-17.50 (16.01); ♂, 15.00-17.75 (16.48)	
					culmen, ♀, 1.40-2.50 (1.66); ♂, 1.20-2.30 (1.69)	
					tarsus ♀, 2.40-3.70 (3.01); ♂, 2.60-4.00 (3.11)	
<i>canadensis</i>	12	37	13	62	wing, ♀, 18.00-19.00 (18.09); ♂, 18.00-21.00 (18.70)	
					culmen, ♀, 1.50-2.20 (1.93); ♂, 1.70-2.50 (1.99)	
					tarsus, ♀, 3.10-4.10 (3.53); ♂, 3.00-4.20 (3.53)	
	404					

These 404 Nebraska specimens of *Branta canadensis* were all collected, so far as the locality data show, in the Great Bend region of the Platte River, in the vicinities of Wood River, Hall County; Gibbon, Kearney and Elm Creek, Buffalo County; and Gothenburg, Dawson County, chiefly between October 1 and December 11, 1884, and March 18 and April 11, 1885. A few were collected in the spring of 1884 and in the fall of 1885. The full recorded data for all of the specimens of the three forms as above distinguished are as follows:

*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*—17 specimens

Wood River, Hall County. Fall of 1884, two (No. 142, ♂; No. 440, sex ?). October 19, 1884, one (No. 441, ♀). October 24, 1884, one (No. 145, ♀). October 30, 1884, two (No. 201, ♂; No. 374, ♀). November 2, 1884, one (No. 235, ♀). November 4, 1884, one (No. 284, sex ?). November 5, 1884, one (No. 244, sex ?). April 1, 1885, two (No. 12, sex ?; No. 46, sex ?).

Kearney, Buffalo County. Fall of 1884, one (No. 184, sex ?).

Elm Creek, Buffalo County. 1884, two (No. 50, ♀; No. 263, sex ?). November 3, 1884, one (No. 89, ♀). November 4, 1884, one (No. 252, sex ?). November 5, 1884, one (No. 246, sex ?).

*Branta canadensis leucopareia*—325 specimens

Nebraska. No date, three (No. 350, ♀; No. 204, sex ?; No. 402, ♂). 1884, four (No. 316, sex ?; No. 62, ♂; No. 392, sex ?; No. 42, sex ?). Fall of 1884, four (No. 141, ♀; No. 205, sex ?; No. 486, ♂; No. 444, ♂). October, 1884, one (No. 341, ♂). October 22, 1884, two (No. 298, ♂; No. 342, ♂). November, 1884, two (No. 296, ♀; No. 337, ♂). November 5, 1884, one (No. 39, ♀). December 1, 1884, one (No. 344, ♂). December 11, 1884, two (No. 102, sex ?; No. 472, sex ?).

Wood River, Hall County. No date, twelve (No. 54, ♀; No. 28, sex ?; No. 233, sex ?; No. 331, ♀; No. 209, ♀; No. 283, ♂; No. 297, ♂; No. 200, sex ?; No. 129, ♂; No. 126, ♂; No. 288, ♀; No. 311, ♀). 1884, nine (No. 64, ♀; No. 178, sex ?; No. 291, ♀; No. 211, sex ?; No. 314, ♀; No. 317, ♀; No. 11, sex ?; No. 292, ♀; No. 100, ♂). Fall of 1884, five (No. 464, sex ?; No. 213, ♂; No. 431, sex ?; No. 467, sex ?; No. 421, ♂). October, 1884, five (No. 270, ♀; No. 315, ♀; No. 187, sex ?; No. 144, ♀; No. 143, ♂). October, 1884, one (No. 254, ♂). October 2, 1884, one (No. 93, ♂). October 9, 1884, one (No. 345, ♂). October 17, 1884, one (No. 439, ♀). October 20, 1884, one (No. 176, ♀). October 21, 1884, one (No. 372, ♀). October 22, 1884, four (No. 20, ♀; No. 103, ♀; No. 147, sex ?; No. 149, ♂). October 23, 1884, two (No. 238, ♂; No. 382, sex ?). October 24, 1884, three (No. 429, ♀; No. 146, ♀; No. 127, ♀). October 26, 1884, one (No. 352, ♂). October 27, 1884, two (No. 267, ♀; No. 438, ♀). October 30, 1884, one (No. 332, ♀). November, 1884, four (No. 32, ♂; No. 348, ♂; No. 430, ♀; No. 466, sex ?). November 1, 1884, one (No. 148, ♀). November 2, 1884, two (No. 203, sex ?; No. 79, ♂). November 3, 1884, one (No. 202, ♂). November 4, 1884, two (No. 312, ♀; No. 294, ♀). November 5, 1884, one (No. 123, ♂). November 8, 1884, one (No. 422, sex ?). November 9, 1884, one (No. 266, ♀). November 13, 1884, one (No. 207, ♀). November 14, 1884, eleven (No. 383, ♀; No. 468, ♂; No. 420, ♀; No. 497, ♂; No. 324, ♂; No. 185, ♂; No. 110, ♀; No. 340, ♀; No. 15, ♀; No. 13, ♀; No. 49, sex ?). November 15, 1884, twelve (No. 61, ♂; No. 428, ♂; No. 232, ♀; No. 111, ♂; No. 160, sex ?; No. 94, ♀; No. 206, ♀; No. 40, ♀; No. 378, ♂; No. 338, ♂; No. 107, sex ?; No. 234, ♂). November 23, 1884, one (No. 461, ♀). December, 1884, one (No. 339, ♀). December 1, 1884, one (No. 381, ♂). December 11, 1884, three (No. 386, ♀; No. 303, ♀; No. 271, ♀). Spring of 1885, three (No. 161, ♀; No. 251, sex ?; No. 449, sex ?). April 1, 1885, six (No. 318, ♂; No. 427, ♀; No. 150, ♂; No. 2, ♀; No. 237, ♂; No. 9, ♀). April, 1885, one (No. 177, ♂). April 3, 1885, four (No. 385, sex ?; No. 210, ♂; No. 460, ♂; No. 212, ♂). April 4, 1885, six (No. 151, ♀; No. 419, ♀; No. 183, sex ?; No. 8, ♂; No. 231, ♂; No. 447, ♂). April 6, 1885, two (No. 27, sex ?; No. 485, ♂). April 7, 1885, one (No. 31, sex ?). April 11, 1885, one (No. 279, ♂). October 2, 1885, one (No. 99, ♂). December 16, 1885, one (No. 170, ♀).

Gibbon, Buffalo County. No date, four (No. 368, ♂; No. 85, ♂; No. 432, ♀; No. 401, ♂). November, 1884, two (No. 101, ♀; No. 488, sex ?). November 29, 1884, one (No. 334, ♀). March 19, 1885, one (No. 1, ♀). March 27, 1885, one (No. 253, ♀). March 30, 1885, one (No. 162, ♂). March 31, 1885, one (No. 140, ♀). April 2, 1885, two (No. 433, ♀; No. 21, ♂).

Kearney, Buffalo County. No date, two (No. 23, ♂; No. 68, ♂). 1885, one (No. 138, ♂). Spring of 1885, one (No. 248, sex ?).

Elm Creek, Buffalo County. No date, two (No. 5, ♀; No. 76, ♀). 1884, one (No. 257, ♀). April 3, 1884, one (No. 236, ♀). Fall of 1884, one (No. 264, ♀). November, 1884, nine (No. 245, ♂; No. 104, ♀; No. 282, ♀; No. 305, ♀; No. 217, ♂; No. 310, sex ?; No. 120, ♂; No. 171, sex ?; No. 224, ♂). November 1, 1884, five (No. 166, sex ?; No. 165, ♂; No. 478, ♀; No. 227, ♂; No. 362, sex ?). November 2, 1884, five (No. 71, ♂; No. 90, ♂; No. 492, ♀; No. 155, ♂; No. 470, ♂). November 4, 1884, eleven (No. 118, ♀; No. 189, ♀; No. 58, ♀; No. 302, ♂; No. 413, ♂; No. 275, ♂; No. 113, sex ?; No. 56, ♂; No. 47, ♀; No. 30, ♀; No. 163, ♂). November 5, 1884, fourteen (No. 258, sex ?; No. 410, ♀; No. 55, ♂; No. 221, ♀; No. 80, ♂; No. 59, ♀; No. 135, sex ?; No. 70, sex ?; No. 157, ♀; No. 3, sex ?; No. 105, ♂; No. 95, ♂; No. 335, ♂; No. 396, ♂). November 6, 1884, fifteen (No. 226, ♀; No. 259, sex ?; No. 397, ♂; No. 117, ♀; No. 281, sex ?; No. 306, sex ?; No. 379, sex ?; No. 239, ♂; No. 184, ♀; No. 69, ♂; No. 10, ♀; No. 57, ♂; No. 404, ♀; No. 361, sex ?; No. 186, ♂). November 7, 1884, twelve (No. 87, ♀; No. 255, ♀;

No. 395, ♂; No. 167, sex ?; No. 19, ♀; No. 63, ♂; No. 73, ♀; No. 222, sex ?; No. 77, ♂; No. 247, ♂; No. 469, ♀; No. 230, sex ?). November 8, 1884, twenty-three (No. 60, sex ?; No. 287, ♀; No. 304, ♀; No. 45, ♂; No. 261, ♀; No. 256, ♂; No. 412, ♀; No. 307, ♂; No. 272, ♂; No. 411, ♀; No. 35, sex ?; No. 399, ♀; No. 7, ♀; No. 394, ♂; No. 44, ♀; No. 286, ♀; No. 309, ♀; No. 300, sex ?; No. 285, sex ?; No. 366, ♂; No. 197, sex ?; No. 108, ♂; No. 156, sex ?). November 9, 1884, nine (No. 223, sex ?; No. 115, sex ?; No. 119, ♂; No. 96, ♀; No. 353, ♂; No. 25, ♂; No. 355, ♂; No. 109, ♂; No. 346, ♀). November 10, 1884, twelve (No. 196, ♀; No. 83, sex ?; No. 181, ♀; No. 229, ♂; No. 445, ♀; No. 273, sex ?; No. 53, ♀; No. 242, ♂; No. 174, ♀; No. 415, ♂; No. 26, ♂; No. 18, ♂). November 11, 1884, seventeen (No. 260, ♂; No. 134, ♀; No. 192, sex ?; No. 398, ♀; No. 495, ♀; No. 354, ♀; No. 228, ♀; No. 98, ♀; No. 327, ♀; No. 173, ♂; No. 322, ♀; No. 408, ♂; No. 290, ♀; No. 299, ♀; No. 154, ♀; No. 152, sex ?; No. 172, sex ?). November 12, 1884, fourteen (No. 182, ♀; No. 262, ♀; No. 158, sex ?; No. 414, ♂; No. 198, ♂; No. 131, ♂; No. 458, ♂; No. 179, ♀; No. 74, ♀; No. 180, sex ?; No. 405, ♀; No. 52, ♂; No. 29, ♂; No. 471, ♂). November 13, 1884, one (No. 367, ♀). November 14, 1884, one (No. 499, ♀). November 15, 1884, one (No. 112, ♀). November 14, 1884, one (No. 499, ♀). November 15, 1884, one (No. 112, ♀). November 16, 1884, one (No. 36, ♀). November 17, 1884, four (No. 78, ♂; No. 363, ♂; No. 406, sex ?; No. 336, ♂). November 18, 1884, four (No. 343, sex ?; No. 24, ♂; No. 459, ♀; No. 114, sex ?).

Gothenburg, Dawson County. No date, two (No. 122, sex ?; No. 347, ♀). November 26, 1884, one (No. 434, sex ?). November 29, 1884, three (No. 391, ♀; No. 92, ♂; No. 403, sex ?).

*Branta canadensis canadensis*—62 specimens

Nebraska. Fall of 1884, one (No. 457, ♂). November, 1884, three (No. 4, sex ?; No. 250, ♂; No. 137, sex ?). 1885, two (No. 356, ♀; No. 491, ♂). Spring of 1885, four (No. 463, ♂; No. 476, ♂; No. 477, ♂; No. 473, ♂).

Wood River, Hall County. No date, two (No. 219, ♂; No. 448, ♂). 1884, two (No. 384, ♂; No. 388, sex ?). Fall of 1884, one (No. 483, ♂). October, 1884, one (No. 496, ♀). October 22, 1884, three (No. 426, ♂; No. 465, sex ?; No. 330, ♂). October 24, 1884, one (No. 423, ♂). October 30, 1884, one (No. 482, ♂). October 31, 1884, one (No. 475, sex ?). November 1, 1884, three (No. 387, sex ?; No. 38, ♀; No. 425, ♂). November 4, 1884, one (No. 484, ♂). November 9, 1884, one (No. 373, sex ?). 1885, one (No. 489, ♂). Spring of 1885, one (No. 451, ♂). April, 1885, one (No. 436, sex ?). April 1, 1885, two (No. 208, ♀; No. 450, ♀). April 4, 1885, three (No. 452, ♂; No. 474, ♂; No. 437, sex ?).

Gibbon, Buffalo County. March 18, 1885, two (No. 277, ♂; No. 320, ♂). March 19, 1885, one (No. 328, ♀). March 21, 1885, one (No. 443, ♂). March 30, 1885, one (No. 481, ♂). April 2, 1885, two (No. 83, ♂; No. 265, sex ?).

Elm Creek, Buffalo County. 1884, one (No. 364, ♀). October 3, 1884, one (No. 153, ♀). November 1, 1884, one (No. 409, ♂). November 2, 1884, one (No. 407, ♂). November 4, 1884, one (No. 82, ♂). November 6, 1884, one (No. 490, ♀). November 8, 1884, three (No. 225, sex ?; No. 446, ♀; No. 393, ♂). November 10, 1884, one (No. 365, ♂). November 11, 1884, one (No. 116, sex ?). November 12, 1884, one (No. 16, ♀). November 15, 1884, two (No. 308, ♂; No. 289, ♂). November 16, 1884, one (No. 349, ♂). November 17, 1884, one (No. 132, ♂).

Gothenburg, Dawson County. No date, one (No. 390, ♂). November 26, 1884, one (No. 462, sex ?). November 29, 1884, two (No. 329, ♀; No. 75, ♂).



## GENERAL NOTES

**The Whooping Crane in Nebraska in Forty Years of Observation.**—Practically every day my work takes me along the Platte River between Cozad in Dawson County and Brady Island in Lincoln County. For the past forty years I have seen Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*) in both the spring and fall. Usually three to nine birds are as many as are seen any one spring or fall. Before the spring shooting was closed I would see an occasional lone bird. In the spring of 1931 there was a flock of nine Whooping Cranes that fed on the 96 Ranch, south of Gothenburg, Dawson County, and in the spring of 1933 there were three birds at that place. In years past I have shot Whooping Cranes and mounted a few of them. After arriving in this locality they usually keep well to themselves, both when feeding and when on the river. I have not seen any this spring, up to April 23, but there has been a decided increase in the numbers of White Pelicans, Lesser Snow Geese and Whistling Swans migrating through this locality.—JOHN P. KENNEDY, *Willow Island, Nebr.*

**Whooping Cranes Near Wood River, Hall County.**—Our place is located two miles west and one-half mile south of the bridge over the Platte River at Wood River, Hall County. Mr. Burmood has lived here all of his life, and I have lived here for the past thirty-five years. Mr. Burmood has hunted in this vicinity ever since he was a boy. We see Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*) here nearly every year. In 1931, we saw three of them standing in the river. We did not see any in 1932 or 1933. On April 17, 1934, we saw a flock of thirty of these birds, just as they were leaving the river. We noted clearly their large size, white plumage with black tipped wings and the red areas on their heads. They did not return to the river, as we thought they might.—MRS. WILL BURMOOD, *Wood River, Nebr.*

**The Whooping Crane in the Spring of 1934.**—Early in April of 1934, I wrote a short article on the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), and sent it to the various newspapers published in towns along the Platte River. In this article I requested that persons seeing any of these birds this spring should report their observations to me. I learned of the following occurrences of this species: On April 7, I, with Mrs. Brooking, saw a flock of thirteen Whooping Cranes near the Solon Wells farm, one mile west of the Wood River bridge, in Hall County (*antea*, ii, p. 48). On April 8, a party of Hastings observers, consisting of the Misses Annette Frantz, Carrie Hansen, Nelle Rowe and M. Caryle Sylla, saw twenty of these birds in the same locality. On April 12, Irene and Marie Sorenson saw about twelve Whooping Cranes one mile east of the bridge at Gibbon, Buffalo County. Mrs. Sorenson was formerly a student with Dr. R. H. Wolcott at the University, and is careful in her bird identifications. Mr. James Samms of Hastings saw a flock of "considerable" size one mile west of Newark, Kearney County, on April 14. About April 15, Mr. Walter Vance, living a mile and a half north and the same distance east of Lowell, Kearney County, saw about twenty of these birds on the Platte River opposite to his home. On the same day, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Porter, living one mile east and one mile north of Lowell, saw about twenty near the bridge at Gibbon. On either April 15 or 16, Mr. Chris Zwink, living four miles north and east of Lowell, saw five Whooping Cranes in a large flock of Sandhill Cranes on his farm, which is on Section 5, Township 8, Range 13. Mr. and Mrs. Will Burmood saw a flock of thirty as they were leaving the river two miles west of the Wood River bridge on April 17 (see above note). A "large" flock was reported as seen near Farwell, Howard County, on April 21, on or about which same date another flock of sixty or seventy birds was reported seen near Lexington, Dawson County, flying high and calling loudly. Finally, Mr. S. W. Wells, who lives on the south side of the river two miles west of

the Wood River bridge, and who is an old hunter, was quite positive that he saw two Whooping Cranes on May 2. Obviously there was a flock of twenty or thirty of these birds in the Wood River vicinity from about April 8 to 17. It is interesting to note that many Whooping Cranes crossed the state somewhat to the east of their regular route this year, there being as many or more reports of these birds having been seen east of Kearney than west of that place.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**The Whooping Crane in the Spring of 1934.**—I have learned of the occurrence of the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) in several instances along the Platte River from Kearney westward, during the spring of 1934. These are as follows: During the first week in April, the exact date being uncertain, Mr. Bert Proctor, a ranchman who lives at the Burlington bridge east of Kearney, in Buffalo County, saw six or seven Whooping Cranes flying high overhead, going northwest. On or about the same day he saw three more of these cranes flying low up the river, on one foggy morning. This probably was the morning of April 3, which was a foggy morning, and on this morning Mr. Jack Chapman of Kearney saw also nineteen Whooping Cranes, as he was driving along the highway between Brady and Maxwell, in Lincoln County. He first heard their loud calls, which caused him to stop and get out of his car. The birds flew over his head about 100 yards high, going northwest. He had his field glasses and looked them over carefully. He could see the areas of red skin on their heads and even the joints on their legs. Nine of them seemed somewhat larger than the other ten. Mr. Chapman knows the Whooping Crane very well, so there can be no question of this identification.

On or about April 17, Mr. Arthur Hunnell, an old hunter living at Lewellen, Garden County, on the North Platte River, was engaged in conversation at that place with Mr. Ray Croft, my next-door neighbor here at Kearney, who had just asked Hunnell if he had seen any Whooping Cranes recently. Hunnell had replied that he had not seen any for about ten years now, when he looked around and exclaimed "There are some now!", and, sure enough, a flock of twenty to twenty-five of them was at the moment flying over town. They alighted in a field north of town. On April 18, Mr. Benjamin Armitage of Kearney saw five Whooping Cranes in a field about ten miles east of Kearney, along the north side of the river. What apparently was this same flock of five was reported to Mr. Armitage by Mr. Harley Smith, a farmer in the vicinity, and also by a game warden who had likewise received a report of them. On the next day (April 19), at about the same place, Mr. Armitage saw one lone Whooping Crane among a large flock of Sandhill Cranes.—CYRUS A. BLACK, *Kearney, Nebr.*

**An Unusually Small Little Brown Crane.**—Mr. Sam W. Wells, who lives on the south side of the Platte River, in Hall County, two miles west of the Wood River bridge, found a wounded Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*) on April 25, 1934. An effort was made to save it, but it died on May 3, and was brought to the Hastings Municipal Museum for preservation. It was made into a study skin, and is now No. 12566 of the Museum. In measurements it is the smallest of this species that I have ever seen, and there is no question as to its identification. Incidentally, Mrs. Brooking and I saw about forty Lesser Snow and Blue Geese feeding on the Sam Wells farm on May 3.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**The White-eyed Vireo in Northeastern Nebraska.**—On May 14, 1934, the writer found a male White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus griseus*) near Homer, Dakota County, Nebraska. This species is decidedly rare in this region, with the last specimen record being Dr. Guy C. Rich's specimen from Woodbury County, Iowa, on April 18, 1900. Other uncommon birds seen on this same trip were the Northern Turkey Vulture and the Olive-sided Flycatcher.—WM. YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

**A Further Observation of the American Woodcock within the City of Lincoln.**—I read the account of the occurrence of the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) within the city of Lincoln in the July number of the *Nebraska Bird Review* with much interest, for I also had the good fortune to see one of these birds in Lincoln on the lawn at the southeast corner of 38th and Holdrege Streets, shortly after the noon hour on May 23. I observed the bird for several minutes at a distance of only about twenty feet as it fed in the soft sod and bare spots about the shrubbery, and could have made no mistake as to its identity. The bird that I saw was with little doubt the same one as was first seen close by on 37th Street, on May 17, and probably was a different bird from the one seen on May 21 and 22 on A Street in South Lincoln by Dr. Whitney and Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Tyler. In such case, it would indicate that this bird must have remained in the immediate vicinity of 37th and 38th and Holdrege Streets, in East Lincoln, from May 17 to 23, at least. Although this was the first time I had ever seen this species, I did not fully realize its rarity in Nebraska or I would have more promptly reported my observation for inclusion in the July number of the *Review*. It is my opinion that we can assume from my observation that there were at least two individual American Woodcocks in the city of Lincoln at the same time.—ROSCOE E. HILL, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Summer Bird Life on the Niobrara Game Preserve.**—During the present summer (1934) I have been making some ecological studies on the Niobrara Game Preserve in Cherry County near Valentine. My headquarters are on the Preserve in a cabin in one of the canyons. I have been impressed with the abundance of birds here, thousands of them nesting on the Preserve. Each of the numerous canyons has its tiny stream of spring water, with a fringe of trees to furnish plenty of nesting places. The Federal Government is building twenty dams on these little streams, eighteen of them being already completed. Each of these dams floods from two to three acres of land, the edges of the ponds thus formed being planted to wild rice and other aquatic plants suitable for duck food. These artificial ponds will be fenced with vermin-proof fences, and enough room will be allowed to provide for nesting places for waterfowl and other birds. Many fields of corn, millet, buckwheat and other grains suitable for winter feed of birds have also been planted and will be left for the birds to harvest. The birds on the Preserve are not molested in any way. The sandhill lakes around here still have plenty of water, in spite of the severe drouth, but yet the waterfowl seem less numerous this year than last.

On the open plains the Western Lark Sparrow is the most common bird. A close second in commonness is the Saskatchewan Horned Lark. The Western Meadowlark is third. Common Rock Wrens are plentiful on the rocky hillsides, and by July 1 the young of most of these birds were large enough to fly. There are many Nuttall Poor-wills here and their concert begins early in the evening. I have not succeeded in finding a nest of this bird, but I have found a nest of the Sennett Nighthawk. The young of the Nighthawk were still downy and their color blended perfectly with the rocky knoll on which they were located. The female tried to attract my attention from her young by acting as if she were crippled and flying low, but she did not strike the ground or vegetation as some other kinds of birds do under these circumstances. I found nests of both the Red-tailed Hawk (subsp. ?) and the Swainson Hawk. The Red-tailed Hawk nest was in a Western Yellow Pine on the side of a steep cliff, and it contained two young. The nest of the Swainson Hawk was on the ground and had four young. In both cases the young hawks were quite large when found.

In the canyons Bob-whites are very numerous, and may be heard calling from morning to night. Many warblers nest here. The Northern Maryland Yellow-throat and the Black and White Warbler are the

most common species. American Redstarts are also common. The Arctic Spotted Towhee is another common bird in the canyons. Both the Scarlet Tanager and the Western Tanager occur here, but they are uncommon, and I have seen only six or seven of each altogether. The Western Blue Grosbeak is also uncommon, but I have seen five of them.—WATSON E. BEED, *Dept. Zoology, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

**A Flight of Buzzard Hawks.**—On the afternoon of August 31, 1934, I noticed an unusual flight of *Buteo* hawks over northeast Lincoln. Due to their movements it was impossible to obtain an accurate count of their numbers, but I should judge that there were between seventy-five and one hundred of them. Some were soaring quite high in the air while others were but a few hundred feet up. All were too high to be certain of their identity, but I believe that they were Swainson Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*).—DON B. WHELAN, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The 1934 Fall Hawk Migration in Adams County.**—As I walked up the valley of Sand Creek, near Holstein, Adams County, on August 16, 1934, I observed several Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo borealis* subsp.), one immature Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) and several Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius* subsp.). The first real hawk flight of the season was not observed, however, until September 24. On the afternoon of that day the wind suddenly changed from south to north, and as suddenly it became very much cooler. Just ahead of the cool wave I noticed dozens of hawks come drifting over. They were mostly Swainson Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*), among which were a few in the black or melanistic plumage, together with a sprinkling of Northern Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter velox velox*) and Cooper Hawks (*Accipiter cooperi*).—HAROLD TURNER, *Bladen, Nebr.*

**The Fourth Taking of the Nelson Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Nebraska.**—On September 9, 1934, in a clump of small willows on an island in the Platte River near Cedar Creek, Cass County, I flushed about four small sparrows, of which I succeeded in collecting one. It proved to be an (immature?) female of the Nelson Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*). I thought at the time that all of the birds were the same, but the others may have been Leconte Sparrows or even Swamp Sparrows, for I was not able to see them well or to flush them again. The specimen collected measures in millimeters: Length, 128; wing, 54; tail, 46; tarsus, 19.5; culmen, 12.5; depth of bill at base, 6.7. This specimen is now No. 740 in my collection. Prof. M. H. Swenk informs me that this constitutes the fourth definite record of the occurrence of this rarely encountered sparrow in Nebraska. The first state record was based on an immature male collected out of a flock of about a dozen, in association with Leconte Sparrows, in a marsh surrounding a pond northeast of Lincoln, on October 8, 1904, by Dr. R. H. Wolcott, and was recorded by him the following year in the *Auk*, xxii, p. 210. This specimen is now in Prof. Swenk's collection. The species was next encountered by Dr. Wolcott and Mr. J. T. Zimmer, again on marshy land near Lincoln, on May 30, 1910, when several were seen and two adult females were collected by Mr. Zimmer (Nos. 292 and 293, collection of J. T. Zimmer), and recorded by him in *Proc. N. O. U.*, v, pt. 3, p. 36, April 29, 1911. The third record is that of a previously unrecorded adult female collected at the lagoon near Inland, Clay County, Nebraska, by Mr. A. M. Brooking, on May 25, 1919, and now forming No. 2587 in his collection at the Hastings Municipal Museum.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, *Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The Eleventh Nebraska Record of the European Starling.**—On October 7, 1934, while I was driving from Lincoln to Cedar Creek, Cass County, in company with Mr. John Morrison, three European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) were seen to fly up from the road and alight in a near-by cottonwood near the village of Manley, in Cass County. On our

return trip, late in the afternoon, what were undoubtedly the same three birds were again seen in the same locality, where they may have bred the past summer.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, *Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

**A Very Late Nebraska Date for the Scarlet Tanager.**—On October 7, 1934, at Cedar Creek, Cass County, Nebraska, I collected a male Scarlet Tanager in full winter plumage. This bird has its beak considerably misshapen, which may account for its having remained so late in this locality. Normally this species has gone southward by September 1, the departure usually beginning in this latitude by the end of July and continuing through August.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, *Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Some Bird Notes from Lincoln in the Fall of 1934.**—During the fall of 1934, I observed the following birds at my home at 3103 South 35th Street. On September 17, I saw the Cedar Waxwing (also on October 10 eight were seen), Tennessee Warbler (seen also October 5 and 14), Eastern Nashville Warbler (seen also September 23), Ovenbird (remaining to September 19), and Common Lincoln Sparrow (seen up to October 7). On September 25, I noted the Olive-backed Swainson Thrush, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler. The White-throated Sparrow was noted on September 27. On October 3, I saw the Northern Pine Siskin, and the Eastern Slate-colored Junco arrived on that date. On October 5, I saw an Arctic Spotted Towhee (which remained until October 7) and a Song Sparrow (subsp.?). On October 8, among a large number of migrating Franklin Gulls, I saw two or three American Herring Gulls.—MISS LOUISA E. WILSON, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**An Unusual Flight of Franklin Gulls in October, 1934.**—On Sunday, October 7, 1934, many residents of Lincoln commented upon the large number of Franklin Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) to be observed circling overhead at various points in and near the city. The writer of this note and Mrs. Swenk noted numbers of them circling overhead at Antelope Park, and scores of them flying over and north, east and south of the Salt Basin. Mr. G. E. Hudson noted them in numbers near Cedar Creek, Cass County, on the same day. Several persons reported them as present in abundance at Pioneer Park southwest of the city. Many Lincoln citizens reported having seen many of these birds circling over town on the evenings of October 8 and 9. The writer saw large numbers of them in the air circling over the College of Agriculture campus at five o'clock on the evening of October 10, and it was reported to him that toward the evening of that day they came in by the thousands and settled for the night at the Stewart Tract just west of Lincoln. Large numbers of migrating Franklin Gulls were seen by the writer at Ashland, Saunders County, on October 12, and during the Nebraska-Iowa football game on the afternoon of October 13 numbers of them were to be seen circling in the air over and about the University of Nebraska Stadium.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The Townsend Solitaire at Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—On October 16, 1934, I saw a Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) as it fed on the Japanese barberries on the bushes in my yard at 1319 South 23rd Street, Lincoln.—MRS. ADDISON E. SHELDON, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

## THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

The general situation regarding conservation in Nebraska was very tersely and effectively expressed by Mr. Frank B. O'Connell, Secretary of the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, in a paper read by him before the Nebraska Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, convening for its Twelfth Annual Meeting at Grand Island on September 10 and 11. Mr. O'Connell said in part: "I would appeal to all forward-looking Nebraska conservationists and outdoor lovers to join hands in putting a stop to indiscriminate drainage, and to work for the restoration of lakes, swamps, lagoons, marshes and natural reservoirs. During the past decade there has been too much tinkering with Nature by half-baked experimenters not satisfied to till the land that Nature intended for that purpose. They must carry on a great program of indiscriminate drainage. They must irrigate thousands of arid acres in order to raise more agricultural products in a land burdened with agricultural surpluses. They must drain every lake, marsh and swamp, straighten every little meandering stream, rob rivers of their natural flow. They must remove and break down Nature's barriers against erosion and floods. The result of all this interference with natural laws and processes has been to leave us utterly helpless whenever we experience a dry cycle. New laws are needed to protect the state's natural resources, and to bring back the old crooked stream with its numerous 'swimmin' holes' and sluggish movements."

The preceding paper on the Canada Geese of Nebraska, based on hundreds of specimens taken fifty years ago, when the great Bend of the Platte River was one of the greatest concentration areas of migrating wildfowl in North America, brings to mind, by contrast, the present situation in this same area. Due to a water shortage caused by the summer's drouth, and to the utilization of the available waters of the Platte farther up that stream for irrigation purposes, the Great Bend is now practically wholly without water. Of course there is still some water in the upper branches of the Platte, but the traditional Platte River shooting grounds around Elm Creek, Kearney, Gibbon, Wood River, Grand Island, Clarks and intermediate points are now mostly broad stretches of dry sand. Only after the waters of the Loup enter the Platte below Columbus, is that stream now really a living one. The open season on waterfowl in Nebraska opened October 16 for a season of thirty consecutive days. The Nebraska Commission, adopting as a conservation and more enforceable measure this open season of consecutive days, rather than some form of a staggered season such as was adopted by nearly all of the other states, has been the recipient of much local unfavorable criticism. But under the extremely grave situation confronting numerous species of our ducks—some of which are in actual immediate danger of an early extinction—the Nebraska Commission should receive commendation, rather than condemnation, from all Nature lovers, conservationists and true sportsmen, for its more advanced policy on this matter.

## THE 1934 MIGRATION SEASON

Under date of August 7, Mr. Guy C. Thompson of Norfolk, Nebraska, reports that for the past three or four years the Bronzed Grackles have used the numerous very large elm trees in his neighborhood in Norfolk for roosting purposes each spring and fall. The past summer, however, the grackles roosted in these trees throughout the summer, damaging the trees and becoming a serious pest. Last year efforts to break up the roosts by shooting at the birds were made by the police and by several authorized individuals, but were unsuccessful. Mr. Thompson asks for suggestions as to how this roost might be broken up.

Under date of August 7, Miss Mollie A. Taylor of Battle Creek, Madison County, writes concerning her bird observations in that locality during the past several months, from which the following may be quoted:

"The birds that came to and ate at our feeding places during the whole of last winter included Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers, Eastern Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Downy Woodpeckers, three Northern Blue Jays, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches and Eastern Brown Creepers. Eastern Slate-colored Juncos came in the spring. One of the teachers saw an Eastern Robin in her yard the last of January, and a high school student reported seeing several of them as early as February 8.

"Early in the spring when I was in town one day, a barber asked me to name a little bird that had flown against his plate glass window and become stunned, afterward recovering and becoming very lively. It was an Eastern Brown Creeper. For about three weeks in the spring a thrush that we identified as the Hermit Thrush visited this vicinity, several of them having been seen by different people. Later, a little boy brought a dead Sora Rail in to school. That same evening another little fellow came with one that he had picked up in the west part of town. A day or two later another boy found one in the southwestern part of Battle Creek, and two little girls who live at the edge of town found a fourth one. We could not determine the cause of their death.

"We had a great many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this spring. One day when the potato bugs were plentiful a boy came to me with a male grosbeak that he had picked up in front of the hardware store on main street. While we were looking at it, another boy ran up with another one. One said the bird was dead when he found it, while in the other case the bird drew up its legs and died as the boy came near. It was the time that people were poisoning potato bugs, and I think that the birds ate some of the poisoned bugs. One of them seemed to have a little frothy material around its mouth, but I could find nothing else wrong with either of them.

"We still have some suet upon a limb. The Northern Downy Woodpeckers came and ate during the late spring, and in the summer the mother brought her young one and fed it from the suet. These birds seem to fall an easy victim to the cats, for we found two or three around, partly eaten, and some of the school children have found them and brought them to me. As the Northern Blue Jays and Bronzed Grackles did not build this year in our evergreen tree by the kitchen door, a pair of Catbirds built there and raised their young. They did good service by eating the larvae on the currant bushes. They fought a good deal with the Western House Wrens that were nesting near by. The day before the young wrens left the nest the mother wren disappeared and did not return, and we do not know how the little ones fared, as they disappeared also. Subsequently another brood of young wrens left the box,

and these are still around. For the past three weeks a Brown Thrasher and her three little ones have been feeding in our yard, bathing in the bath and eating from the feeding tray. They came quite close to the kitchen door and must have nested near by. The Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers, Arkansas Kingbirds and Bronzed Grackles also all bring in their babies for feed and water.

"Other birds coming to our yard this summer are Western Mourning Doves, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Arkansas Kingbirds, Black and White Warblers, Eastern Yellow Warblers, Orchard Orioles, Baltimore Orioles, Eastern American Goldfinches and Eastern Chipping Sparrows. We also have many Eastern Robins, that do much bathing. Out in the country we see Bob-whites, Northern Kill-deers, Crows, Bobolinks, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds and Eastern Cowbirds. I have heard the Bob-whites calling here in town, but not as far into town as our home, though they have done that a few times in other years. My friends who live near the Yellow Banks have the Eastern Cardinal, both winter and summer, and my brother often sees the Scarlet Tanager in the woods along the Elkhorn River. Several times this spring I have heard and seen a Mockingbird. Many Eastern Belted Kingfishers are along the creek. I can hear our Eastern Screech Owl in the trees at night, but do not see it very often.

"We never have had the birds as tame as they are this summer. This may have been due to the prevailing dry weather. A friend of ours who does much fishing along the Elkhorn River told me that he never had seen as many wading birds in the Elkhorn River as he has seen this summer. While I was at summer school, early one morning my sister picked up a shivering little nestling Northern Blue Jay. She taught it to eat and drink, and finally it would bathe itself. It ate bread, worms, flies, pressed ham and the like, and kept us busy trying to keep it satisfied. We had it for almost a month, and it grew very tame and seemed to like all of us. It would snuggle up to my brother and he would rub its feathers. One day this summer, between Wayne and Battle Creek, I saw a large hawk flying quite high overhead with a long glistening snake in its talons. My school boys who accompanied the men on the wolf hunts this past spring said that some of the hunters shot every hawk and owl that they saw. Their wolf hunts have probably done more harm than good, for they did not succeed in destroying many wolves. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird recently has been visiting the gladiolus blossoms, and when tired resting itself upon the electric light wires near by."

Mr. L. M. Gates reports that on August 19 he spent an hour, from 7:00 to 8:00 A. M., making a bird list at the old railroad bridge in "Hidden Paradise" near Long Pine, Brown County. He saw one each of the Great Blue Heron and Least Bittern. A number of Eastern Crows were seen pestering a Great Horned Owl. Other species observed were the Western Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Blue Jay, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, four or five Black and White Warblers, numerous Eastern Yellow Warblers, a half dozen American Redstarts, some Eastern (?) American Goldfinches and two female Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks.

Under date of September 27, Mr. Harold Turner of Bladen, reports on some of his bird observations made during the past summer and fall. On June 22, by a strange coincidence, both Mr. Herbert Hansen and Mr. Edward Johnson, farmers of near Holstein, independently reported a crippled White Pelican in their respective pastures. Mr. Turner visited one of these farms and found a White Pelican with one wing injured, although the bird did not appear to have been shot. He states that there had been a rather hard storm on the preceding night, with a strong northwest wind, and wonders if this could have any bearing as to



why these two birds should be found crippled in the same way at the same time. However, June 22 is far later than the normal spring migration period of the White Pelican. Mr. Turner identified the Warbling Vireo near the pool in his yard on July 26, and saw an American Barn Owl along Sand Creek on August 1. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed at close range, as it hovered over some flowers by the pool, on August 10. On September 25, a flock of about twenty-five Franklin Gulls was noted flying low over a corn field. A Long-eared Owl was seen perched in a tree along Sand Creek on September 26. Mr. Turner also makes mention that James Morey of Bladen dug four young Red Foxes out of a den just outside of the town limits of Bladen on May 30. Mr. Turner mounted one of them, a male, for Fred Turner of Bladen. The old foxes were not captured. Three of the young were kept alive for some time, but later escaped.

Miss Louisa Wilson of Lincoln reports that she again noted an Oven-bird in her yard on August 18. This individual was without a tail, and may have been a different bird from the one or ones seen in her yard on July 30 and August 3 to 6 (*antea*, ii, p. 70). About 2:00 P. M. on August 23, she saw a young Eastern Screech Owl with an Eastern Robin that it was not yet large and strong enough to carry. A pair of Orchard Orioles nested in a poplar tree on her place this past summer, and made their nest entirely of excelsior which they gathered from Miss Wilson's flower beds, where she had placed it for mulching purposes. Mrs. H. F. Reid of Lincoln reported having seen a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on August 2 and 15, one each time, at her home at 1643 Harwood Street. These were the only reports of this bird at Lincoln during the past summer and early fall. Baltimore Orioles were actively singing from August 16 to 22, the latter being the last date upon which they were observed at Lincoln. The Eastern Warbling Vireo likewise was last seen on August 22. Mrs. M. H. Swenk noted a female American Redstart on the bird bath in her yard on August 30.

During September and early October of 1934, the following observations that seem worthy of record were made: Mr. G. E. Hudson saw a flock of about sixty White Pelicans flying down the Platte River near Cedar Creek, Cass County, on September 14. Great Blue Herons (subsp.?) were common in the same locality on the same day. On the following day, September 15, again in the same locality, Mr. Hudson saw several small flocks of ducks that were identified as Gadwalls. He likewise noted two Red-tailed Hawks and an American Rough-legged Hawk near Cedar Creek on October 7. An American Osprey carrying a fish, was observed by him at the Platte near Cedar Creek on September 9, and a bird of this species was again noted by him at the same place on both September 14 and October 7. A Prairie Falcon was seen by him near Lincoln on September 8. Migrating Sparrow Hawks (subsp.?) were noted commonly by Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Swenk near Tamora, Seward County, on September 11, and near Louisville, Cass County, on September 12, while Mr. Hudson counted thirteen of them on September 15, near Cedar Creek. Three Soras were flushed from dense stands of small willows and smartweeds on an island in the Platte River near Cedar Creek on September 14, by Mr. Hudson, who noted them there again on October 7. Mr. Hudson and Mr. W. E. Beed found about fifteen Golden Plovers along the muddy edge of King's Pond near Lincoln, and in company with them two Black-bellied Plovers, on September 30. The Golden Plover was again encountered near Cedar Creek, on October 7, a flock of about twenty-five of them in an alfalfa field. Northern Killdeers were reported as common near Lincoln on September 8 and 30, by Mr. Hudson, and near Louisville on September 12, by M. H. Swenk, who found them again very common near Lincoln on October 7 and 12. Mr. Hudson saw three Wilson Snipes on September 30, on which date he

observed also the Baird Sandpiper (seven), Least Sandpiper (two), and Stilt Sandpiper (two). Mr. Hudson saw two Spotted Sandpipers along the Platte near Cedar Creek on September 15, and at the same time and place saw about eight Greater Yellow-legs. About the same number of Lesser Yellow-legs were noted by him near Lincoln on September 8.

Western Mourning Doves were common up to the middle of September, after which they were much fewer. At Lincoln, in the late afternoon of September 22, Mr. Hudson saw two Nighthawks (subsp.?) flying toward the south, and subsequently noted another individual of this species on the late date of October 4, also at Lincoln. Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted commonly by various observers between September 8 and 12, apparently migrating birds. A young Red-headed Woodpecker was noted by the Swenks near Tamora, on September 11. Mr. Hudson noted two Eastern Kingbirds near Lincoln, on September 8. Mr. and Mrs. Swenk noted one near Louisville on September 12, and Mr. Hudson made the last 1934 observation of the species when one was seen between Lincoln and Cedar Creek on September 14. The last Arkansas Kingbird of the season was noted by Mr. and Mrs. Swenk near Tamora, on September 11. Mr. Hudson noted about ten Barn Swallows on September 8, near Lincoln, and on September 12 the Swenks noted that the wires around Louisville were at spots crowded with Common Bank Swallows and Barn Swallows, in the proportion of three to one, all sitting facing the wind. The last dates for the Barn Swallow were three seen by Mr. Hudson on the Belmont Prairie near Lincoln on September 26 and five seen by him near King's Pond on September 30. Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches began appearing in town at Lincoln on October 4. Mr. Hudson saw and collected a female Western House Wren on September 15. The last Catbird was noted by the Swenks in their yard on September 20, and the last Brown Thrasher ten days later. Eastern Robins were still common in town at Lincoln on October 19. Mr. Hudson saw a flock of about thirty American Common Pipits on September 30. The Eastern Myrtle Warbler was seen at Lincoln by M. H. Swenk on October 4, and the Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Cedar Creek by Mr. Hudson on October 7. The Northern Maryland Yellow-throat was seen and heard, and a female collected, by Mr. Hudson at Cedar Creek on September 15. Mr. Hudson heard a Western Meadowlark in song on the Belmont Prairie on September 26, and at the same place on October 3 many of both the Western and Eastern species were heard singing repeatedly. Bronzed Grackles were flying in large flocks during the first ten days in October. Savannah Sparrows (subsp.?) were noted by Mr. Hudson on September 8 (about eight) and 30 (about twenty). A Vesper Sparrow (subsp.?) was noted by him on the Belmont Prairie on October 3. Swamp Sparrows were seen, and one collected, by him at Cedar Creek on September 14.

#### HERE AND THERE WITH THE N. O. U. MEMBERS

Our honorary member, Mrs. G. A. Loveland, now of River Road, Norwich, Vermont, writes under date of August 27 that she and Mr. Loveland had a most interesting time with the Vermont Botanical and Bird Clubs at their annual meetings and field trips, at Rochester, Vermont, on June 26 and 27. While fewer species were seen than on similar trips in Nebraska, many more flycatchers, thrushes and warblers were observed. Mrs. Loveland writes that this summer they had numbers of birds about their own door yard and in the near-by meadows and woods. The Eastern Whip-poor-wills sang at night down by the river, and were heard as late as August 20. Numerous Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visited the petunias, phlox and delphiniums. In the dead trunk of a big old maple tree an Eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker dug enormous trenches. Eastern Phoebes and Barn Swallows nested under the eaves

of the barns. The Eastern House Wrens insisted on building in the mail box. In the deep woods west of the house the Hermit Thrushes and Veeries sang. The Eastern Common Bluebirds raised three broods in the houses that Mrs. Loveland put up for them, and the Tree Swallows raised one brood. In the bushes or trees, within sight of the windows, the Eastern Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Robin, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo and Eastern Purple Finch were nesting. In the meadows north and east of the house were Bobolinks and Eastern Common Meadowlarks. The Cedar Waxwings enjoyed the berries on the bush honeysuckle. Eastern Vesper, White-throated and Eastern Song Sparrows were also present in the vicinity. Mrs. Loveland also reports that last winter, at Daytona Beach, Florida, she identified 106 species of birds and added nine new ones to her life list, these being the Eastern Brown Pelican, Ward Great Blue Heron, Northern Louisiana Heron, Florida Gallinule, Black Skimmer, Ground Dove, Florida Jay, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Boat-tailed Grackle.

Under date of September 3, Mr. Miles Greenleaf of Omaha sends a clipping from the Beardstown (Illinois) *Illinoian-Star* of June 22, 1934, which tells an interesting story of an English Sparrow "adopting" five small House Wrens at the residence of Joseph Maskell, 1211 Washington Street, Beardstown. The House Wren nest was in a tree. After the young hatched, one of the parent wrens, believed to have been the male, was killed. Another subsequent accident caused two of the small birds to fall out of the nest to the ground below. It was then that the English Sparrow was noted by numerous observers to be feeding the young wrens on the ground and also the three left in the nest, by carrying them "worms and seeds."

Under date of September 21, Dr. Mary Price Roberts, who, with her husband, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, a past president of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, has long been actively interested in that organization, reports that during the present school year she is serving as a visiting teacher in the Grand Island public schools. Mrs. Roberts is enjoying her work in Nebraska and intends to contact our members and other bird students in the Grand Island vicinity for cooperative bird work.

The Brooking Bird Club of Hastings has issued its program for the 1934-35 season. Eight meetings are planned. On September 17, various club members will report upon their summer bird observations. On October 21, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Adams will present "A Study of the Wrens", and Miss Eva Evans will report upon the life of Thomas Bewick. On November 19, Mrs. A. M. Brooking will review Henry Revoll's "History of the Passenger Pigeon", and Mrs. A. E. Olsen will review Beebe's "Birds of the Galapagos". On December 17, Mrs. E. R. Maunder will report on unusual bird occurrences in Nebraska during the past year, and Mrs. C. W. Rants will discuss the spread of the European Starling. On January 18, Miss Annette Frantz will review T. Gilbert Pearson's "Fifty Years of Bird Protection in the United States", and Mrs. Dorr Mahoney will talk on the subject "What Birds Do for Us". On February 22, Mrs. A. M. Jones will discuss "How to Study Birds", Mrs. J. Roelse will give a talk on "Birds' Eyes", and Miss Martha Cousley will discuss "The Bathing of Birds". The March 18 program will be papers on "The Return of the Birds" by Mrs. F. L. Youngblood, and "Songs and Courtship of Birds" by Mrs. A. H. Staley. A motion picture film of bird life will be shown on April 15. The annual field trip and business meeting will be held in May.

Mr. Wilson Tout, of the Tribune Printing Company of North Platte, has recently published a "Bird Lovers' Monthly Record" and a "Bird Lovers' Nest Record", in response to a demand from the recently-organized North Platte Bird Club, made up according to a form that he

has been using for the past seven years and that he has improved from time to time. The "Bird Lovers' Monthly Record" consists of a pad of thirteen sheets, each about 7 x 9 inches in size, printed on a 20-pound linen finish bond paper that will take either ink or pencil and that will retain its white color for many years. At the head of each sheet is a place for entering the month and year, under which is a wide vertical column in which the name of the bird may be written. To the right of this wide name column are narrow vertical columns for each day in the month, in which an "x" can be placed on the date that each species listed has been identified, or the number of individual birds identified may be put in the space instead of the "x". Experience has shown that a blank form of this sort brings about the recording of observations that never would be preserved in an ordinary note-book. Mr. Tout posts the sheet each month on the wall in his living room, with a pencil attached, so as to make the putting down of each day's records an easy matter. The "Bird Lovers' Nest Record" is a pad of 3 x 5 inch light weight cards, having a place to record the name of the bird, the location of the nest, the date, the contents of the nest, and other pertinent notes such as the kind of tree in which the nest is placed, its height from the ground, the shape and composition of the nest, the actions of the parent birds, and so on. Mr. Tout sells the monthly record sheets at twenty cents per pad of thirteen sheets.

## A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA

### III. TOTIPALMATE SWIMMERS (PELECANIFORMES)

#### PELICANS (PELECANIDAE)

##### 9. WHITE PELICAN.—*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin.

The White Pelican was formerly a very common, and is still a fairly common, regular migrant each spring and fall across Nebraska. West of the 103rd meridian it is, and may always have been, less common than farther east. Yet there is probably no section of the state in which it is at all seasons entirely absent. During its migrations it is particularly prone to follow up and down the Missouri River, and to rest in flocks on the normally broad waters of the Platte. Sometimes it still passes through the state in flocks of considerable size, numbering hundreds of birds.

Our records show that it has been reported as a more or less common migrant in the following counties: Richardson (Humboldt; J. V. Cortelyou), Nemaha (mouth of the Little Nemaha; Maximilian), Gage (Beatrice; A. S. Pearse, F. A. Colby, M. H. Swenk), Lancaster (Lincoln Salt Basin; many observers), Cass (South Bend; M. H. Swenk), Douglas (Omaha; I. S. Thostler, L. Skow, Miss Mary Ellsworth, etc.), Washington (Engineer Cantonment; Say), Burt (Pelican Island; Lewis and Clark, A. J. Donelson), Thurston (Lewis and Clark; Maximilian), Dakota (Lewis and Clark; Maximilian), Knox (mouth of the Niobrara; Maximilian), Antelope (Neligh; M. Cary), Madison (Norfolk; L. Sessions), Cuming (West Point; L. Bruner), Dodge (Fremont; University collection), Butler (Linwood; W. W. Cooke), York (York; Wilson Tout), Saline (Dorchester; A. Eiche), Clay (Inland; Glenvil; A. M. Brooking), Adams (Hastings; A. M. Brooking, Mrs. A. H. Jones, Miss M. Diemer, Harold Turner, etc.), Kearney (Wilcox; A. R. Marsteller), Buffalo (Kearney; C. A. Black), Hall (Wood River; D. H. Talbot), Merrick (Silver Creek; F. C. Foster), Brown (Long Pine; Will Smith), Cherry (Wood Lake; J. M. Bates, and Simeon; Mrs. Lulu K. Hudson), Thomas

(Halsey; R. H. Wolcott), Logan (Cody Lake; Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Glandon), Lincoln (North Platte, regular but uncommon; Wilson Tout), Frontier (Curtis; Rees Heaton), Sheridan (Rushville; L. Bruner), and Garden (Crescent Lake, Swan Lake; C. A. Black, A. M. Brooking).

The White Pelican spends the winter along the Gulf Coast, from northern Florida westward, along the Pacific Coast from northern California southward, and along both coasts and in the interior of Mexico and Central America, south to Panama, casually visiting the islands of the Caribbean Sea. The western coast birds move north in April and May to their breeding grounds from the interior of California, southern Oregon and western Nevada to central British Columbia and northern Utah. The Gulf Coast birds move north up the Mississippi Valley, during the same period, to the lakes of the great mid-interior breeding areas of the species, from central Manitoba, central North Dakota and northwestern Wyoming north to Great Slave Lake. Formerly the interior breeding range extended much farther south, at least to north-central Wisconsin, southern and western Minnesota, South Dakota and Colorado. East of the Mississippi River the White Pelican is a more or less casual migrant or straggler, but it has been recorded from most of the eastern states, and even to New England and New Brunswick.

The northward movement of the White Pelican from the Gulf Coast begins in March, and by the early part of that month the extreme van of the migration has reached northern Texas (Gainesville, March 7) and southern Kansas (Cimarron, March 9). These earliest birds do not reach the latitude of Nebraska and Iowa (Mt. Pleasant, March 18; Grinnell, March 30) until the latter half of March. The earliest recorded Nebraska date is March 15, 1931, when A. M. Brooking recorded it from near Hastings, Adams County (*L. O. I.* No. 57, p. 3). The next earliest date is March 21, 1900, on which day two individuals were seen at Beatrice, Gage County (M. H. Swenk) and the species was also noted on the Platte River at Silver Creek, Merrick County (F. C. Foster). A large flock of what were apparently White Pelicans was reported from O'Neill, Holt County, on March 30, 1932 (*antea*, i, p. 119).

Ordinarily, however, the first White Pelicans are not seen in Nebraska until early or middle April. M. Cary reports it for Neligh, Antelope County, on April 3, 1899 (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 21). F. J. Keller reports a flock of fifty at Kicken Lake, Sheridan County, April 6, 1932 (*L. O. I.* No. 66, p. 8). Thomas Say records the arrival of the "Rough-billed Pelican" at Engineer Cantonment on April 8, 1820 (*Long's Exp.*, i, pp. 266-270). Eight early April dates at Lincoln include one seen at the Salt Basin on April 5, 1899 (A. Eiche); a flock of fifteen seen at the same place on April 9, 1913 (M. H. Swenk); seven shot on a pond near Lincoln by a hunter (of which four were mounted by M. H. Swenk) on April 10, 1902; several seen by workmen at Capitol Beach at the Salt Basin on April 10, 1926, and reported to L. G. Worley, and these or others again seen there on April 13, 1926 (Mrs. G. O. Smith); some seen by C. E. Mickel on April 11, 1919; some seen by L. G. Worley at the Salt Basin on April 12, 1925; a flock of 100 seen at the Salt Basin on April 16, 1911 (H. B. Lowry); and some seen by R. W. Dawson on April 16, 1916; an average date of April 11.

These late March and early April birds constitute the beginning of the first migration flight. This flight continues, less heavily, from the middle of April until the very end of the month. Reports of the same are from Omaha, April 14, 1930 (*L. O. Horsky, L. O. I.* No. 51, p. 8) and April 15, 1934, a flock of several hundred birds (*antea*, ii, p. 80); from Linwood, Butler County, April 16, 1885 (W. W. Cooke); from Hastings, Adams County, April 16, 1913, and Glenvil, Clay County, April 18, 1916 (A. M. Brooking); from between Kearney and Odessa, Buffalo County,

April 18, 1934 (*antea*, ii, p. 78); from Omaha, April 19, 1925 (Miss Mary Ellsworth, *L. O. I.* No. 7, p. 7); from Wilcox, Kearney County, April 19, 1930 (A. R. Marsteller, *antea*, i, p. 127); from Holstein, Adams County, April 21, 1933 (Harold Turner, *antea*, i, p. 73); from Hastings, Adams County, April 22, 1934 (Kenneth Eaton, *antea*, ii, p. 72); from Wood River, Hall County, April 23, 1881 (D. H. Talbot); from Salt Basin, near Lincoln, April 23, 1910 (J. T. Zimmer); from Omaha, April 26, 1931 (C. A. Mitchell), and April 28, 1930 (L. O. Horsky, *L. O. I.* No. 59, p. 4, and 51, p. 8), and large flocks from the Nemaha and Otoe County coast, April 28 and 29, 1833 (Maximilian).

The bulk of the White Pelicans moves across Nebraska in the next heavy migration wave, which means during the early part of May. Maximilian records seeing flocks at the mouth of the Niobrara River on May 6, 1834, near the mouth of the Big Sioux on May 9, and along the Dakota and Thurston County coasts on May 10 (*Reise*, i, p. 287). Audubon records seeing several White Pelicans below the mouth of the Little Sioux on May 11, 1843 (*Journals*, i, p. 484). At Lincoln dates of early May arrival in six years are: May 1, 1927 (Mrs. Fred Tyler); May 4, 1919 (R. W. Dawson); May 6, 1919 (C. E. Mickel); May 6, 1899 (J. S. Hunter, one dead at Salt Basin), May 7, 1907 (M. H. Swenk) and 1910 (J. T. Zimmer) and May 14, 1929 (H. P. Doole); an average date of May 6 or 7. They were seen at Hastings on May 1, 1927 (Miss M. Diemer) and May 6, 1929 (Mrs. A. H. Jones). Mrs. Lulu K. Hudson reports the species from Simeon, Cherry County, on May 15, 1934 (*antea*, ii, p. 82). White Pelicans are seldom seen after May 15. The latest Lincoln dates are May 21, 1916 (R. W. Dawson) and May 26, 1893 (specimen shot, and mounted by L. Skow of Omaha).

During their migrations White Pelicans tend to follow the valleys of the larger rivers of the interior. Identifications of this species by hunters, and other persons who are not trained ornithologists, may usually be accepted with a reasonable degree of safety. Out-of-door observers are mostly fairly familiar with the good-sized assemblages of these big white birds, following a leader in V-shaped flocks or circling high in the air and almost out of sight, with slow and measured strokes of the great black-tipped wings. Sometimes when they alight on mud flats or sandbars on the Missouri or Platte, they form great white masses of birds.

After the close of the spring migration, White Pelicans are occasionally to be seen during June about the larger lakes of Cherry and Garden Counties. J. M. Bates has recorded seeing fifteen of them on a lake south of Wood Lake, Cherry County, June 5, 1897 (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 15). They were seen by R. H. Wolcott on Dewey Lake, Cherry County, from May 28 to June 8, 1903 (*Prelim. Rev. Bds. Nebr.*, p. 23). C. A. Black and A. M. Brooking saw a flock of eighteen at Crescent Lake, Garden County, June 20 to 24, 1917. They bore the horny excrescences on the culmen characteristic of the breeding season. Ranchmen said that this flock had been present there all spring, and Andrew Richardson, a Kincaider living in the vicinity, told Mr. Brooking that the pelicans were present also that summer, and breeding, on Swan Lake, northwest of Crescent Lake. This questionable breeding report was not verified, and the White Pelican cannot definitely be listed as a breeding bird in Nebraska, for the mere presence of the species during the nesting season does not necessarily signify breeding. No doubt there are groups of non-breeding individuals of this species that sometimes linger in flocks in favorable places through the breeding season, and that these June records represent such birds. Flocks of White Pelicans are reported as occasionally seen during the summer on the larger lakes of eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, where they formerly bred, their numbers increasing from June to early August, probably from the ar-

rival during July of additional individuals from the North Dakota and Manitoba nesting grounds.

There is a bare possibility that during the explorational period White Pelicans may have bred along the sandbars of the Missouri in north-eastern Nebraska, especially on a long island sandbar in the Missouri River northeast of Tekamah in Burt County, that was named Pelican Island by Lewis and Clark. When these explorers were ascending the Missouri in 1804, they reached this place on August 8, and found hundreds of White Pelicans gathered and feeding on the upper point of the island, which they located as about two miles above the mouth of the Little Sioux River. Captain Lewis killed one of them and five gallons of water was poured into its pouch. Another was killed by John Dame, one of the soldiers in the party. In the afternoon the sandbars were covered white with pelicans. Private Whitehouse says that there were better than 5,000 or 6,000 of them flying, and that they kept before the party all that day (see journals of Captains Lewis and Clark and of Sergeant Ordway for this date). This constitutes the first Nebraska record of the species. On the return of the party, White Pelicans were noted on the river along Dakota County on September 4, along Thurston County on September 5, and a large flock again along Burt County "near the mouth of the Little Sioux" where two or three were killed.

In 1853 Lieutenant A. J. Donelson of the U. S. Corps of Engineers was ascending the Missouri by steamboat, making a survey of the river between St. Louis and Fort Union, and on June 6 noted White Pelicans at this same place. He writes: "On the 6th we halted for wood on the left (Iowa) bank, near which occurs the only settlement to be met with on the river between Council Bluffs and Sergeant's hill. Just opposite is a spot called Pelican Island, from the fact of its being a great resort for pelicans. We here first met with this species of fowl. The island received its name from Lewis and Clark, I believe, on account of their having noticed the same fact." (*Rept. Expl. and Surv. for Railroad from Miss. R. to Pacific Ocean*, 1, 1855, p. 238).

The latest dates of migrating White Pelicans at Lincoln and for all of eastern Nebraska fall during the month of May. The normal nesting season for the White Pelican on the islands or shores of the fresh-water lakes of the Canadian interior is June and the first half of July, and especially June, with the earliest young hatching in middle or late June and leaving the nest in July. Lieutenant Donelson noted the birds at Pelican Island at the very earliest part of the normal nesting season (June 6) and Lewis and Clark at its close (August 8). Whether eggs would have been found there in late June or early July cannot now be known, but it is at least possible that they might have been.

The earliest Nebraska fall migration date is based on the observation of an individual at the Kernan Lagoon near Hastings, Adams County, August 15 to September 4, 1932, reported by Miss Margaret Diemer (*antea.*, 1, p. 20), and on a specimen in the University Museum shot at Humboldt, Richardson County, August 29, 1898 (J. V. Cortelyou). Ordinarily, however, fall migrants are not seen in the Nebraska latitudes until after the middle of September. Typical early dates at Lincoln are September 17 (C. E. Mickel) and 23 (M. H. Swenk) 1916, September 22, 1900 (J. S. Hunter) and September 30, 1899 (M. A. Carriker, J. S. Hunter, R. H. Wolcott). The main fall migration extends through the month of October, especially its first half. October dates of observation in various localities include: Mouth of the Little Sioux, Burt County, October 3, 1844, several (J. J. Audubon); below Fort Croghan, October 6, 1844, killed two (J. J. Audubon); Lincoln, October 6, 1907 (M. H. Swenk); Omaha, October 11, 1927 (C. A. Mitchell, *L. O. I.* No. 29, p. 3) and October 12, 1900 (L. Bruner, R. H. Wolcott); South Bend, October

12, 1907 (M. H. Swenk); Hastings, October 13, 1928 (A. M. Brooking, *L. O. I.* No. 34, p. 3); Beatrice, October 14, 1933 (*antea*, i, p. 139); Dorchester, October 15, 1907 (A. Eiche), two specimens; Wahoo, Saunders County, October 21, 1931 (*L. O. I.* No. 63, p. 2) and Omaha, October 21, 1931 (*L. O. I.* No. 63, p. 4); Neligh, October 25, 1898 (M. Cary); and Lincoln, October 27, 1899 (A. Eiche). L. Bruner records seeing White Pelicans at Rushville, Sheridan County, early in November of 1900, this being our latest normal Nebraska date for the species, though a wounded bird was present at Carter Lake in the fall of 1933 until November 11 and 12, as reported by Miss Mary Ellsworth (*antea*, ii, p. 14).

10. EASTERN BROWN PELICAN.—*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis* Linnaeus.

While the breeding range of the Eastern Brown Pelican in the United States is confined to the Gulf Coast and northward along the South Atlantic Coast to South Carolina, and the species ordinarily is resident within its breeding range, nevertheless during any of the warmer months of the year, and especially in the early summer or fall, individual birds (almost invariably immature ones) rarely may wander northward, sometimes for long distances. There are records of the Eastern Brown Pelican, chiefly based on such wandering young birds, from Nova Scotia, several New England localities, New Jersey and New York, and in the northern interior from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. These numerous records would seem to justify regarding this species as a possible occasional accidental visitor in any of the north-central states.

The first Nebraska record of the Eastern Brown Pelican is undoubtedly that of Thomas Say, who recorded the "Brown pelican (*Pelecanus fuscus*)" in the list of birds seen by him at Engineer Cantonment, near Fort Calhoun, Washington County (*Long's Exped.*, ii, p. 266). This record must have pertained either to the fall (from September 19 on) of 1819 or the spring or early summer (before June 6) of 1820.

The second record is probably the following note published in the *Nebraska State Journal* for Wednesday, July 10, 1872: "Sea Pelicans.—Stephen Morgan shot a couple of Sea Pelicans this morning in the vicinity of the Salt basin (just west of Lincoln, Lancaster County). One of them, the largest, was killed, and weighed ten pounds; the other is only crippled and is now in Mr. Morgan's possession. They are the first ever seen in this vicinity." This record seems quite acceptable for the following reasons: (1) as a bird type, pelicans are wholly unmistakable to anyone, so these birds were undoubtedly pelicans; (2) if they had been the White Pelican the matter would not likely have received any special comment, for that species was a common migrant through the region each spring and fall, while these pelicans were aptly called "Sea Pelicans", and the statement definitely made that they were the first ever seen in the Lincoln vicinity; (3) the larger of the two birds weighed only ten pounds, which would have been entirely too small for an adult White Pelican (which would have weighed somewhere from fifteen to twenty pounds), and the season was too early for any young White Pelicans to be wandering or migrating—in fact on July 10 the oldest young White Pelicans in the interior region could have been only a few weeks old and scarcely out of the nest (the nesting period being chiefly in June, and the young remaining in the nest two or three weeks), while young Brown Pelicans could have been wandering northward by that date (the nesting period on the Gulf Coast being from February to April, with the oldest young of the year flying by early June).

The third record is that of a male specimen collected by or for D. H.



Talbot at St. Paul, Howard County, on October 10, 1885, and preserved (at least up to 1896, when it was reported upon to Professor Bruner by H. F. Wickham) in the Talbot collection at the University of Iowa Museum. Also, early in the 1890's, L. Skow of Omaha reported to L. Bruner that he had seen fragments of six Brown Pelicans in a hog-pen where they had been thrown by the man who had shot them at Honey Creek lake, near Omaha, Douglas County. This was in the spring of the year. These two records are reported by Bruner in his *Notes on Nebraska Birds*, 1896, p. 62.

The fifth and last Nebraska record of this species to date, and the only Nebraska specimen known to be now preserved, is also from the Omaha vicinity. In the spring of 1912 a Brown Pelican was killed at Carter Lake (or "Cut off Lake") near Omaha, Douglas County. It was noticed among a flock of tame ducks by the owner of the ducks, a woman living on the border of the lake. Seeing this large bird with its tremendous beak and pouch among her ducks, she thought it was going to kill them, and accordingly brought out her husband's shotgun, and, resting it in the fork of a tree, she took a shot at the bird. One shot only struck the pelican, this penetrating the eye and killing the bird. She drew the bird in, and when her husband returned it was taken to the Northwestern School of Taxidermy at 15th and Harney Streets. There it was turned over to Mr. L. Skow for mounting. The bird was a male and bears the number 254 in the Elwood collection at the Northwestern School of Taxidermy. It is evidently an immature bird, in the first year juvenal plumage, for the under parts are grayish white and the upper parts are a dark gray with whitish edgings to some of the larger feathers. The neck is dark brown and of the peculiar velvety feathering characteristic of this species, and the crest on the hind neck is well developed. The whitish margins of the pouch are not clearly developed, owing to a mixture of brownish feathers with the white ones. The measurements are: Wing, 525 mm.; tail, 145 mm.; culmen, 313 mm.; middle toe with claw, 115 mm. These measurements are the maximum, or a little more than the maximum, measurements for the Eastern Brown Pelican.

Mr. Skow said that he noticed that the pouch had crimson streaks on it and identified the bird as the California Brown Pelican (*P. o. californicus* Ridgway) because of this character, following the description in Coues' "Key". Although the bill and pouch have been painted, they at present show the pouch having a reddish cast, especially toward the tip, but this much obscured by blackish streaks, especially toward the base, where there is little suggestion of a reddish color.

#### CORMORANTS (PHALACROCORACIDAE)

11. NORTHERN DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson).
12. FLORIDA DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—*Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus* (Audubon).

The Double-crested Cormorant is an uncommon but regular migrant each spring and fall across Nebraska, west at least to the 102nd meridian and probably completely over the state. Usually it is noted as individuals or pairs, but sometimes in small flocks, frequenting the larger ponds, lagoons and smaller streams as well as the Missouri and Platte Rivers.

Distributional records at hand are from the following counties: Gage (Beatrice; James Cady), Jefferson (Fairbury; A. M. Brooking), Lancas-

ter (Lincoln Salt Basin; A. Eiche, J. S. Hunter, G. M. Pinneo, L. Worley, etc.), Otoe (Nebraska City; M. A. Carriker), Douglas (Omaha; I. S. Trostler, L. Skow, F. J. Brezee, and Florence, J. Budd), Washington (Engineer Cantonment; Say), Antelope (Neligh; M. Cary), Madison (Norfolk; L. Sessions), Cuming (West Point; L. Bruner), York (York; J. S. Hunter), Clay (Inland, Glenvil; A. M. Brooking), Buffalo (Kearney; C. A. Black), Hall (Platte River; A. M. Brooking), Brown (Long Pine; Will Smith), Cherry (J. M. Bates), Grant (Thorp Lake; F. M. Uhler), Lincoln (North Platte; Wilson Tout), and Frontier (Curtis; Rees Heaton).

The Northern Double-crested Cormorant winters in the southern United States, from the Gulf Coast north to North Carolina and southern Illinois, well south of the southern boundary of Nebraska. In the spring these birds migrate up the Mississippi Valley to their breeding grounds in Maine, Minnesota, northern Iowa (formerly), the Dakotas, Saskatchewan and Utah northward into Canada. The northward movement begins in March, and by the end of that month the extreme van has reached Missouri and southern Iowa. The earliest recorded Nebraska date is a specimen shot at the Salt Basin at Lincoln, April 4, 1911, by G. M. Pinneo, now in the August Eiche collection at the University. This specimen is typical *auritus* (wing 322 mm.). The second earliest record is that of a specimen shot at Glenvil, Clay County, April 9, 1927, and mounted by A. M. Brooking (*L. O. I.* No. 23, supplement, p. 6). This bird is also referable to *auritus*. The third earliest record is that of a specimen shot near Nebraska City, Otoe County, April 13, 1900, and sent to the University, where it was mounted by M. A. Carriker. The first record of the species for the state is that of Thomas Say, who noted the arrival of the "Corvorant, *Pelecanus carbo*" at Engineer Cantonment, Washington County, on April 20, 1820. The next earliest record is that of a specimen of *auritus* shot at York, York County, April 22, 1899, and sent to J. S. Hunter at the University.

The height of the spring migration is during the second half of April and the first half of May. Latest dates of record are the following: May 14, 1926, at the Salt Basin near Lincoln (Leonard Worley; *L. O. I.* No. 17, p. 8), May 15, 1899, on the Elkhorn River near Neligh, Antelope County (M. Cary; *Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 21), and May 17, 1930, on the Missouri River near Omaha, on the twenty-eighth annual N. O. U. field day (*L. O. I.* No. 51, pp. 7 and 8).

The Northern Double-crested Cormorant has long been known to nest in northeastern South Dakota, there being several recorded colonies of the bird there (Lake Albert, Waubay Lake, Fort Sisseton, etc.), but until very recently the species was not known to nest in Nebraska. Mr. Harrison F. Lewis has placed on record (*Auk*, xlviii, 1931, p. 210) the observations of Mr. F. M. Uhler of the Biological Survey, who reports that on July 30, 1930, he visited Thorp Lake, several miles northeast of Hyannis, Grant County, and found a mixed colony of American Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons and Northern Double-crested Cormorants. The cormorant nesting colony consisted of at least twenty to thirty nests, situated in low willows within twenty feet of the ground.

This species begins to migrate southward from its breeding grounds during the latter part of September, but the earliest fall date for Nebraska is that of one killed near Kearney, Buffalo County, October 5, 1918, and mounted by C. A. Black for the B. J. Olson collection. This specimen is very small, with a wing only 300 mm. long. The southward migration continues through October and early November, reaching its height during the first week in November. A very large specimen of *auritus* (wing 327 mm.) was shot near North Platte, on the Platte River, November 1, 1932, and sent to M. H. Swenk for preservation (*L. O. I.*

No. 65, p. 3). Several were reported as seen during the first week in November of 1930, and one that was shot on the Platte River in Hall County north of Hastings on November 2, 1930, was preserved by A. M. Brooking (*L. O. I.*, No. 54, pp. 1 and 2). M. Cary records a specimen from the Elkhorn River in Antelope County in November, 1896.

The Florida Double-crested Cormorant (*P. a. floridanus*) is a smaller subspecies that is resident along the Atlantic Coast from North Carolina southward, both coasts of Florida and the coast of Louisiana, as well as some of the Bahama Islands. Formerly the breeding range of this subspecies was thought to extend north up the Mississippi Valley to the southern parts of Ohio and Illinois, and it has been recorded as a straggler from Nebraska and other northern states. L. Bruner recorded it from Omaha on the authority of himself and F. J. Brezee, and also from Lincoln, West Point and the Platte River on his own authority (*Some Notes on Nebr. Bds.*, 1896, p. 61). J. S. Hunter also has recorded it as rare at Lincoln (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 19). In recent years, however, the interior Mississippi Valley records of *floridanus* have been discredited, and these birds all referred to the northern subspecies. That is probably the correct disposal of them, but nevertheless it is easy to see how the Nebraska records of *floridanus* have come to be made. The northern subspecies is supposed to have a wing length of 300 to 325 mm., averaging about 313 mm., while the southern subspecies has the wing 280 to 312 mm. long, averaging about 294 mm. In the B. J. Olson collection is a skin from Kearney, Buffalo County, with a wing only 300 mm. long, which is thus the very minimum for *P. a. auritus* and much nearer the average of *floridanus* than to that of typical *auritus*. It might easily be referred to the southern form. In the Rees Heaton collection is a specimen from Curtis, Frontier County, with a wing only 306 mm. long and the tail 163 mm. long. This is closer to the average *P. a. auritus*, but it also comes within the size range of *floridanus*. Another specimen from Fairbury, Jefferson County, in the Brooking collection at Hastings, has a wing 309 mm. long, which is also less than the average *auritus* or maximum *floridanus*. One does not nearly so readily refer these specimens to *P. a. auritus* as other specimens, as for example two April birds in the Eiche collection from Lincoln, Lancaster County, with wings measuring 316 mm. and 322 mm., and other measurements in proportion, or a specimen from North Platte, Lincoln County, with the wing measuring 327 mm. in length. A. C. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Petrels and Pelicans and Their Allies*, 1922, p. 255) says of these Mississippi Valley birds that "perhaps they may be intermediate", and in that statement I think he is correct.

[MEXICAN OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT.—*Phalacrocorax olivaceus mexicanus* (Brandt).]

This smaller species of cormorant, of which the adults in the breeding season easily may be distinguished from the preceding one by the pointed (not rounded) tips of the darker-edged brownish slate (not bronze-gray-edged glossy black) feathers of the back and scapulars, the filamentous white plume-feathers on the sides of the head, neck and belly and the narrow border of white feathers on the gular sac (all lacking in *auritus*), and the lack of the long, curly feather tufts behind the eyes (forming the characteristic double crest in *auritus*), has accidentally wandered north to New Mexico (Fort Thorn, April, 1854; Carlsbad, July 25, 1901; Silver City, November 12, 1916); Colorado (Denver, October 15, 1899); Kansas (Lawrence, April 2, 1872); southern Illinois (Cairo, spring of 1878); and possibly also to Nebraska. Bruner included it from West Point, Cuming County, in his 1896 list (*Notes on Nebraska Birds*, p. 61) on the identification of a friend, but in the 1904 list (*Prelim.*

*Rev. Bds. Nebr.*, p. 22), this record was dropped as probably a misidentification of *auritus*. It may not have so been, however, and the accidental occurrence of this species in Nebraska may yet be verified.]

#### DARTERS (ANHINGIDAE)

##### 13. WATER-TURKEY.—*Anhinga anhinga* (Linnaeus).

In the early 1890's a wandering specimen of this bird was shot, supposedly in the vicinity of Omaha, Douglas County, and mounted by F. J. Brezee, an Omaha taxidermist of that time. This record was reported by Bruner in his *Notes on Nebraska Birds* (p. 61; 1896), but in the *Prelim. Rev. Bds. Nebr.* (pp. 21-22) was not fully accepted as a Nebraska record because there was a possibility that the specimen might have been shot across the Missouri River in Iowa, or possibly even in



northwestern Missouri. The species was definitely added to the Nebraska list, however, by a specimen caught with a fish spear by Oscar Blevins at the Josh Woods ranch on the South Loup River in Buffalo County, north of Kearney, on September 20, 1913 (*Wilson Bulletin*, xxx, p. 113; 1918). This specimen, shown in the accompanying illustration, was mounted at Omaha by the Northwestern School of Taxidermy for the late B. J. Olson of Kearney, and is now in the C. A. Black collection at the latter place.

#### MAN-O'-WAR BIRDS (FREGATIDAE)

##### 14. MAN-O'-WAR BIRD.—*Fregata magnificens* Mathews.

In the spring of 1884, at West Point, Cuming County, Bruner saw a bird that he identified as a Man-o'-war bird, "and a later oceanic acquaintance with the species convinced him of the correctness of that identification" (*Prelim. Rev. Bds. Nebr.*, p. 22; 1904). However, in the *Preliminary Review* the record was not included in the Nebraska list because the specimen was not taken. Since this is so distinct a bird from any other type, and the species has been known to occur many times in summer on the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Texas, and has strayed north to Kansas (Osborne County, August 16, 1880), Wisconsin and Ohio, it is here unequivocally added to the Nebraska list.

MYRON H. SWENK

## A HISTORY OF NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGY

## I. THE ANCIENT PERIOD (CONTINUED)

## Aboriginal Man and Bird Life

Subsequent to the evidences concerning ancient bird life furnished by the palaeontologist and geologist in their studies of fossil bird remains, as was outlined for Nebraska in a previous number of the *Review* (*antea*, i, pp. 50-53), come those further evidences furnished by the palaeontologist and geologist, in collaboration with the archaeologist, anthropologist and ethnologist, in their studies of prehistoric man. For a history of the development of ornithology must, subsequent to the results from the study of bird fossils, parallel the history of human culture. The existence of man in western Europe before the close of the Pleistocene (or Glacial) age, thirty or forty thousand years ago or longer, is abundantly proved by the presence of human artifacts of many kinds, and even of human bones, buried under glacial soil and gravel in deep deposits in caves and sheltered places. But proof that man existed in North America during this same period is less definite. Anthropologists have in general been of the opinion that man arrived in North America in comparatively recent times; but a considerable amount of palaeontological and archaeological evidence, mostly accumulated during the past decade, indicates that man may have been a much earlier migrant to this continent than has previously been thought, and that human beings may have lived in Nebraska contemporaneously with extinct Pleistocene mammals.

Human artifacts found in immediate association with fossilized bones of different species of extinct bison, under circumstances that point to a great probability that the two were contemporaneous, indicate that man was likely present on the Great Plains at least as early as the later glacial period, which would mean the general occupation of this vast region thousands of years ago by a people who hunted the bison many centuries prior to the advent of the American Indians as we know them. In 1895, H. T. Martin found a stone point artifact in the loess deposits at Russell Springs, Logan County, Kansas, in association with a skeleton of the extinct *Bison occidentalis* (Williston, 1902; McClung, 1908). In 1924, H. D. Boyes found three grayish flint arrow points, of a workmanship and culture stage different from similar artifacts occurring on the surface in the same locality, in the matrix directly beneath the cervicals, dorsal vertebrae and ribs and left femur, respectively, of a nearly complete articulated skeleton of an extinct species of bison, under conditions indicating their contemporaneousness, in the bank of Lone Wolf Creek near Colorado, Mitchell County, Texas (Figgins, 1927; Cook, 1927). In 1926, two flint arrow points, in general similar to those found in Texas but of superior workmanship, were found by a party from the Colorado Museum of Natural History under several feet of hard clay in association with the remains of an extinct bison closely related to *B. occidentalis* (one of them in a fixed position adjacent to one of the bison's rib-bones) near Folsom, Union County, New Mexico. While all these finds relate to late Pleistocene (or later), arrow points and other artifacts associated in the same horizons with fossil mammoth, giant sloth, horse and camel bones were found in a sand and gravel pit one mile north of Frederick, Tillman County, Oklahoma, by A. H. Holloman of that place in 1927 and previously, indicating a possible contemporaneousness of man with these extinct mammals of the early or middle Pleistocene period (Figgins, 1927; Cook, 1927). Also, in 1932 E. B. Howard of the University of Pennsylvania Museum found a "Folsom" type point in a cave near Carlsbad, New Mexico, buried seven feet beneath the floor level in asso-

ciation with bones of extinct species of bison, musk-oxen, horses, camels and a four-horned antelope (Renaud, 1932).

Similar associations of stone point artifacts with the bones of an extinct species of bison (*Bison occidentalis*), in three separated Nebraska localities, have come to light within the past decade. In 1923, Charles and Earl Foster, two Grand Island High School students, found and dug out the skull and some other bones of one of these bison from a bed that was being exposed by the cutting of its right bank by the Platte River in Hall County, Nebraska, eight miles southwest of Grand Island. The following year F. G. Meserve, then of Grand Island College, collected another skull and some more bones of fossil bison from the same bed, and while doing so found a blue-gray flint dart point of good workmanship under a bison scapula. In July, 1931, further excavation in this same bed by a University of Nebraska Museum palaeontological field party under C. Bertrand Schultz resulted in the finding of an almost identical dart point among a cluster of rib and vertebra bones of this same species (Meserve and Barbour, February, 1932; Strong, June, 1932; Barbour and Schultz, October, 1932). Two years previously, in July, 1929, Mr. Schultz and his assistant Frank Crabill, of the University of Nebraska Museum field party of that year, had found a small, black flint dart point of fine workmanship, differing considerably from the common points of the known plains Indians, in association with a portion of rib bone of a fossil bison believed to be the extinct *Bison occidentalis*, about a foot back in the yellow loess bank and with about sixteen feet of the loess above it, in a vegetation layer of presumably late Pleistocene (Peorian) origin, in the South Loup Valley about seven miles southwest of Cumro, Custer County, Nebraska (Strong, 1932; Schultz, 1932). Finally, in 1932 the University of Nebraska field party of that year examined a deposit of fossil bison bones sixteen to thirty feet below the ground surface near the base of Signal Butte, sixteen miles west and three miles south of Scottsbluff on the north bank of Spring Creek, and among these bison bones, toward the bottom of the bed, several artifacts were found, including knives, scrapers and dart points of good workmanship ("Pre-Folsom" type), apparently buried contemporaneously with the bison bones themselves (Barbour and Schultz, December, 1932).

The associations of human artifacts with bones of extinct species of bison in Nebraska are believed to be all at earliest of late Pleistocene origin, possibly very late in that period, or even to belong to the Recent period. They probably represent, however, a very early and previously unknown Nebraska human culture. But what may constitute our earliest glimpse of man in Nebraska is that of a human artifact, probably a spearhead, made of blue-gray stone, that was found in August, 1931, under the left scapula of an articulated fossil Columbian mammoth, buried under almost sixteen feet of stratified sand and gravel, silt and clay, in a stream bank near Angus, Nuckolls County, Nebraska, by Junior Brooks, as he was assisting A. M. Brooking of the Hastings Municipal Museum in removing this skeleton (Figgins, 1931; Strong, 1932). The evidence to date indicates the possibility that this scapula and its associated artifact were lying in deposits of Mid-Pleistocene age, which would carry the association back many thousands of years.

Dr. E. B. Renaud of the University of Denver has made careful typologic studies of the flaked point artifacts to be found in the Great Plains states (1931), and also (1932) in the Mississippi Valley states farther east. He finds that some of these points are of a "different appearance, shape, technique, or quality from the usual Indian artifacts," especially those of the grooved "Folsom" type, concerning which he states (1931) that "competent geologists and palaeontologists agree that they come

from Pleistocene gravels and associated with large and extinct species of bison and other fossils", and were "likely made in the same general period by tribes of the same culture hunting the bison and other game of that time over the Western Plains."

After examining a number of points found in the sand of blow-outs along both sides of the North Platte River in the vicinities of Scottsbluff, Bridgeport and Oshkosh, Nebraska, of the newly-named "Yuma" type that occurs very commonly in northeastern Colorado, eastern Wyoming and farther east in Nebraska, he again wrote (1932): "The numerous old camp sites, blow-outs, mesa-top sites, and rock shelters scattered over some hundred miles (in this region) prove that various tribes, at different times, inhabited the region which offered shelter, game, water and a natural highway for east-west migrations, hunting parties, trading, and the search for good flakable materials such as exist in the neighboring state of Wyoming. The discovery of 'Yuma' and 'Folsom' points suggests that such favorable conditions had been recognized and enjoyed many centuries before the coming of the white man by the skillful makers of these beautiful artifacts." He also states (1932): "New Mexico and Colorado furnish the majority of 'Folsom' points so far known, and the Yuma district in northeastern Colorado seemingly is the principal center of production of the points so named. The area in which 'Folsom' and 'Yuma' points are at present known to exist has been vastly extended eastward. My finding such flaked implements in the collections of the Museums at Saint Louis and New Orleans proves their existence in Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois and Ohio. These facts show that very likely 'Folsom' and 'Yuma' points have been found in most of the territory drained by the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and tributaries, that is to say the 'Mound Builder' area."

In the summer of 1932 a party under the direction of Dr. W. D. Strong investigated the palaeolithic culture evidenced by artifacts to be found at Signal Butte in Scotts Bluff County. Three separate strata of evidences of human occupation are reported to have been found. A tentative estimate of the period of time from the first occupation to the present has been made at 10,000 years; beyond doubt, it is thought by those competent to judge, the period runs into thousands of years. But evidences of palaeolithic man are not confined to the North Platte Valley or the Plains region of Nebraska. Similar evidences have been forthcoming from the sandhill region of the state, the southwestern area and the Republican Valley, the Loup and lower Platte Valleys, and especially from the Missouri River front.

Before the coming of the white man to the region that is now included within the boundaries of Nebraska, a prehistoric people made their homes along the wooded hills bordering the bluffs of the Missouri River, and on the elevated places near the mouths of the streams emptying into it, from Richardson County to Washington County, in the vicinities of the present towns of Rulo, Plattsmouth, Omaha, Blair and others, where the remains of many of their house sites have been found. This people was called the "Nebraska Loess Man" by those who investigated skulls and other skeletal remains taken from a mound near Omaha in 1906-07 (Barbour and Ward, 1906; Barbour, 1906; Hrdlička, 1907; Gilder, 1907-09). A hunting people, they used arrow-heads, spear-heads, knives and axes of stone; made bone needles and awls, and cups, jugs and other vessels of clay; built earthen houses upon the rounded hill-tops, close to a supply of wood and water, and buried their dead in mounds along with the stone, bone and pottery articles that they had used in life. Where these people came from, and what became of them, is not known, and now several feet of soil cover the remains of their houses. The cultures of this people apparently extended over a con-

siderable period of time, and in various ways differed from those of the Indian tribes that subsequently came to Nebraska, where they were found by the first white men to penetrate to the region, only a few centuries back. Just how long this more ancient people occupied these Missouri River lodges is a question upon which scientists do not agree, but several centuries to a millennium is generally admitted, while there are those who would place it at some thousands of years. It is reported that about these prehistoric lodges are to be found some bones of animals that apparently had been used for food by their occupants of the long ago, and cast into the ancient refuse dumps. A careful study of any such remains of birds might give some valuable evidence of the character and abundance of the bird life of eastern Nebraska before the day of the Nebraska Indians as we know them.

When the early white explorers first came they found Indians of several tribes living in the area that is now Nebraska, but these tribes were themselves relative newcomers to the region. Of them all, the Pawnee nation was apparently the oldest in residence on Nebraska soil. The evidence available indicates that they had come in from the southwest some centuries previously, and by 1700 had occupied most of eastern Nebraska. They had villages in the valleys of the Republican, Platte and Loup Rivers, containing altogether about 10,000 people, and spoke an entirely different language from the other tribes. East of the Pawnees lived the Otoe, Omaha and Ponca tribes. The Otoes came into the present southeastern Nebraska from what is now southwestern Iowa and northwestern Missouri, and the Omahas later came into northeastern Nebraska from northwestern Iowa. The Poncas were found established about the mouth of the Niobrara River in 1789. These three tribes were all related to the Sioux and spoke languages that were much alike. Traditionally, they had migrated up the Missouri River from the southeast only a few hundred years before the coming of the white men. The Otoes, numbering about 3,000, hunted in what is now southeastern Nebraska, south of the Platte River and east of the Blue River, and thence eastward to the Mississippi River. The Omahas, of about the same strength as the Otoes, occupied the region north of the Platte River and west to Shell Creek and the Elkhorn River. The Poncas, numbering about one-half as many people as the Otoes or Omahas, claimed the country west along the Niobrara River as their hunting ground. All four tribes had villages in which they dwelt, when not away hunting the bison, and about which they practiced a primitive agriculture, growing corn, beans and melons. They lived not only in skin tepees but also in stationary earth lodges.

During the last half of the eighteenth century, the Ogallala and Brule Sioux came southeast into western Nebraska, as the southern portion of a general migration of the Sioux nation, from across the Missouri River in what is now eastern Dakota and Minnesota, and hunted over the plains from the Black Hills and Big Horn Mountains south to the Republican River. About 1800 the related Cheyenne came in, from northern Dakota and Minnesota, and joined the Arapahoe, who were already there, in hunting over the plains between the North Platte and Arkansas Rivers. All three tribes lived in tepees and subsisted on the products of the chase. The Sioux nation was the most powerful of the Nebraska tribes, numbering somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000 people, and hunted over the region to the north and west of the hunting grounds of the Poncas, Omahas and Pawnees. The Cheyennes and Arapahoes claimed the upper valleys of the two branches of the Platte River, but hunted on the plains with the Sioux. They numbered about 3,000, and spoke a language different from that of the Sioux or Pawnee, being related to the Algonquin tribes of New England. This was the general condition of Indian occupancy of Nebraska during the early part of the



nineteenth century. There began a warfare over bison hunting grounds between the more sedentary eastern tribes — the Pawnees, with their Ponca, Omaha and Otoe allies — and the war-like Sioux, with their Cheyenne and Arapahoe allies, which lasted for many years. The coming of the white man injected a still newer factor into the situation.

Birds have always played an important part in the mythology and religion of the Nebraska Indian tribes. This is especially true of the tribes with more advanced culture, like the Pawnees and the Omahas. In the Pawnee story of the Creation the Belted Kingfisher was a leading actor. The Golden and Bald Eagles were important in their religious ceremonials. The Indian mythology associated birds with the powers of the air that dwelt in the sky. That was the abode of Thunder, the God of War. The flight of birds brought them near to the Thunder god, and they were regarded as his special messengers. The manifestations of the Thunder god — thunder, lightning, windstorm and cloud — had a close association in the mind of the Indian with particular kinds of birds. Swallows flying before a storm were regarded as heralds of the approach of the Thunder god. Destruction caused by the storm was symbolized by the hawks and other birds of prey. In the Omaha tribe the war rites were largely built around this mythology. Before the Omaha undertook battle, rites connected with the Sacred Pack of War — a skin bag containing the skins of certain kinds of birds — were conducted at a tribal meeting. Only after the conducting of these war ceremonials with the Sacred Pack could the Omaha warrior have the sanction of the war power of the tribe to go on the warpath. Through this ceremony each member of the party placed himself under the authority of the Thunder god of War, and the responsibility for his acts rested with that deity. When the warrior engaged in battle, the birds watched his every act, and reported all of his deeds to the Thunder god. In the war dances headdresses emblematic of honors won in battle were worn. With the Omaha this consisted chiefly of the tail of a Plains White-tailed Deer and the tuft of coarse hair-like feathers from the neck of a Wild Turkey.

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