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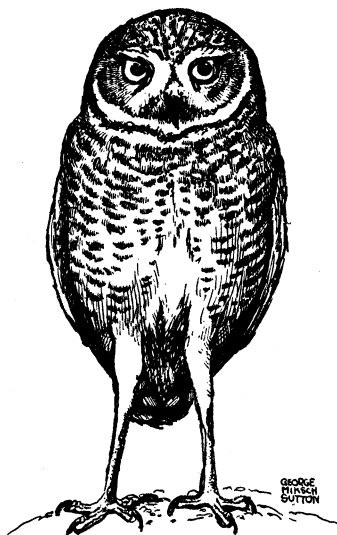
VOLUME VI

JANUARY-JUNE, 1938

NUMBER I

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# The Nebraska Bird Review



*A Magazine of the Ornithology  
of the Nebraska Region*

Published by the

**Nebraska Ornithologists' Union**  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

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# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

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Edited by Myron H. Swenk, 1410 North Thirty-seventh Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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## C O N T E N T S

*Page*

Birds of the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge. By Wilson Tout .....	1
General Notes .....	4
The Mourning Dove Case.....	23

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# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

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## BIRDS OF THE CRESCENT LAKE MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE

By WILSON TOUT

The Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge is located in Garden County, Nebraska, about twenty-five miles north of Oshkosh. Its longest distance from east to west is eighteen and one-half miles, and from north to south is twelve miles. It includes about 43,000 acres. It is composed of irregular pieces of land, some detached from the main body. Within it are a large number of lakes, including all or a part of Swan, Goose, Hackberry, Island, Bear, Gimlet, Martin, and many other lakes. Some of the smaller lakes are not named and some disappear during dry seasons. Crescent Lake itself is not in the Refuge.

The Refuge was established to furnish a safe stopping place for birds during their migrations and a satisfactory breeding place for those which will stay there. The lakes are almost entirely free from trees or shrubs, but are bordered with rushes and cat-tails, and furnish fine nesting places for many kinds of ducks and other water birds. It is in a typical sand-hill region, being almost treeless. The Headquarters is near Gimlet Lake, where a grove of trees, mostly large willows, furnishes a fine setting for the modern home and other adequate buildings. Mr. Walter W. Bennett was the Refuge manager at the time of my visit. I spent the five days from June 22 to 26, 1937, inclusive, at the Refuge as his guest. From my notes I have made the following records of birds observed:

American Eared Grebe (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*). Many seen, nearly all on one lake.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). Many on one lake, where they kept to the water far from shore. No nests seen.

Treganza Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias treganzai*). Great Blue Herons, presumably this form, were seen on two occasions in the marsh land near the lakes.

American Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*). Several seen, and I found one nest containing three eggs. It was in the rushes bordering a lake, surrounded by water and built up eighteen inches above the water level on a lot of dead rushes.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Seen on several days in different parts of the Refuge. I found a nest containing four eggs on the ground in the sweet clover only a short distance from the Headquarters and 200 yards from the lake shore. We flushed the bird from the nest each day when making the rounds of the nests.

Eastern Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis exilis*). I saw a nest containing three eggs in the rushes on the shore of one of the lakes. It was a foot or more above water and fastened to the rushes much like a platform. The bird was not seen, but was heard close by.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis* subsp.). There were eight of these birds on one of the lakes, some having nested there. Some of them at least were descendants of Canada Geese which had been captured by hunters and used for decoys before they were prohibited by law. They were



released on the lakes, and while they are wild birds they are not so wild as those which migrate from the North each year.

Common Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*). Seen a number of times on different lakes. I visited one nest which was under observation, and which was located at the top of a hill in a yucca plant, one-half mile from the lake. Another nest was in some sweet clover in a meadow not far from the Headquarters.

Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*). A number seen in pairs and in small flocks, and while I did not see any nests, Mr. Bennett has found them nesting there repeatedly.

Baldpate (*Mareca americana*). These ducks were noted on several lakes at different times, although no nests were seen.

American Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihua*). Seen on several lakes at different times. I saw a nest in the same meadow where the above-mentioned Mallard was nesting, and flushed the female each time we went the rounds on the check-up.

Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*). A pair was under observation on two different days on a lake several miles from Headquarters, and, while acting like mated birds, we were unable to see them leave the water.

Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*). This duck was seen oftener and in larger numbers than any other. I saw a pair with eight little ones only a few days old on one lake.

Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*). Mostly in pairs and seen on different lakes, but I did not see a nest. Not so numerous as some other kinds of ducks.

Lesser Scaup (*Nyroca affinis*). Several males seen but no nests found.

Redhead (*Nyroca americana*). Not so many Redheads as there were of some other ducks, but I saw two nests one morning, both in the rushes and surrounded by water.

Canvas-back (*Nyroca valisineria*). Two males noted but there were others there, as they are not rare even during the nesting season.

Northern Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*). Noted it on several of the lakes at different times, but saw no nests.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*). A nest was under observation in a marshy meadow near the Headquarters.

Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido americanus*). We flushed one individual, and Mr. Bennett said it was the first that he had seen for several days. I talked with one of the men who was working on the Refuge, and he said Prairie Chickens are becoming fewer each year.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). A small flock kept our attention one morning as the individuals ran about on a sandy shore, but they left in a flock so we presumed they were not nesting there.

Northern Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*). Noted on each lake and in other places. One nest was visited which was close to the track in the graveled highway and another was in the middle of the same road. Both were marked and protected with stones after they were found. I noted another nest on the shore line of one of the lakes.

Southern Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus americanus*). Seen on a number of trips and sometimes we must have been near their nesting grounds for they would dash at us and give the call of distress and challenge.

Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*). Once on the shore of one of the lakes I saw this bird feeding, and once I saw it on a fence post as we passed.

Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*). Common and often seen individually or in flocks of from three to ten.

Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*). Several presumably non-breeding individuals appeared on the lake shore while I was there.

Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). These beautiful birds were seen quite often. I found a nest with four eggs on the gravelly shore of one

lake. The nest was nicely made of grass, leaves and rushes, but was not near any growing vegetation.

Wilson Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). A large number seen, and while nests are not unusual, I did not see any. They were usually in small flocks, although individuals and pairs were noted. Most of those seen were males, indicating many non-breeding birds.

Bonaparte Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). One flew over a lake we were visiting and hovered near so we got a close view of it.

Forster Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). There were many terns on the lakes, and most of them this species. I saw as many as fifty feeding at one time on one lake, but I did not see any of their nests.

American Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*). I estimated there were about as many Black Terns on one lake as there were Forster Terns, while on some lakes I would see only Forster Terns and on some only Black Terns. I did not observe any nests.

Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*). Western Mourning Doves were all over the Refuge. I saw one nest which had been built under the roof above the door inside an abandoned shed. One of the parents was found dead one morning, and the next day the other was dead. The temperatures both days stood near the 100° mark, and we thought they had both died from the heat.

Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*). I saw these birds at two points on the Refuge.

Sennett Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor sennetti*). When I wandered into the hills near the Headquarters at noon one day, a pair of Sennett Nighthawks flew very near me, and I heard one of them "booming" on several occasions. Once we passed one on the top of a fence post by the roadside.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Several near the Headquarters, and I saw others in other parts of the Refuge.

Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Several seen about the grove at Headquarters and in other places, especially along the telephone line.

Rocky Mountain Say Phoebe (*Sayornis saya saya*). One seen twice in the same place.

Saskatchewan Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris enthymia*). Many on the Refuge, and I often saw them on the sandy shores of the lakes, where they seemed to be feeding.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*). A pair had a nest in one of the buildings at Headquarters, and the last day I was there I saw fresh mud on the outside of the nest.

American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*). One individual was seen in flight.

Eastern Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*). Not common.

Prairie Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris dissaëptus*). I found this wren on each of the lakes I visited. It was in the rushes on the lake shore, where numerous nests were found. Most of the nests were complete except for the lining. I found one with four eggs and one with five eggs.

Olive-backed Swainson Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*). Mr. Bennett reported identifying one, and the next morning I saw a thrush, but did not get close enough to make certain identification, but I accept his record as unquestioned.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus* subsp.). Heard in the trees at the Headquarters. I saw one there but could not distinguish the subspecies.

Eastern Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*). Seen at Headquarters, gathering down from dandelion and often heard there, but not more than one pair.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). A male was seen, and both Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Tout observed it at close range.

Western Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*). Both males and females were seen and heard along the rushy borders of the lakes and in the marshy places.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). One seen at the Headquarters the last morning I was there, and Mr. Bennett stated that they had been seen there previously from time to time.

Eastern Common Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). We heard a song one day which Mr. Bennett said was that of *magna*.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). Seen and heard commonly in all parts of the Refuge that we visited.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Common in some places, and a large flock of about fifty was seen on one occasion. I found numbers of their nests on the lake borders, but no eggs or young birds.

Thick-billed Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*). Common over the whole lake region. I found one nest containing five eggs and the men reported finding a number of other nests.

Cowbird (*Molothrus ater* subsp.). Only once identified, and that was a male on a fence wire.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Not as common as I had expected it to be, but seen and heard on a number of occasions.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis* subsp.). Several pairs seen at Headquarters, and were often heard there.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). Noted in small flocks and in pairs in a number of places, usually in meadowlands.

Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*). Not a common bird, but several were identified.

North Platte, Nebr.

#### GENERAL NOTES

**Some Recent Range Extensions of the European Starling in Nebraska.**—During the summer and fall of 1937 I saw the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*)\* in several Nebraska localities from which it had not previously been reported. In the vicinity of Hastings, Adams County, between June 6 and 9, I saw several of these birds, including one flock of five individuals. On June 13, I saw one near Genoa, Nance County. On October 8, I saw a flock of eight individuals one mile west of Houston, York County, and another flock of six was seen four miles south and four miles east of St. Michael, Buffalo County. Although not representing a new locality for the species, I might add also that I saw a flock of ten of these birds within the city limits of Lincoln on October 2.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, *Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

**An European Starling Found in the Basement of a House.**—On the morning of October 13, 1937, on going into the basement of my home at 2827 South 24th Street, my maid reported the presence of a bird. We captured and caged it, and it proved to be an European Starling. Aside from the absence of several tail-feathers on the right side, the bird appeared perfectly normal in every way. It is a mystery to me how the bird effected its entrance into the basement. The specimen has been preserved in the Zoology Department of the University of Nebraska collection.—MRS. W. E. BARKLEY, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

\*The European Starling has spread rapidly over the eastern half of Nebraska during 1937-38, as is attested by this and the following record notes. In future numbers of the *Review* only new localities of its spread will be recorded.—Ed.

**An European Starling Captured Roosting in a Barn.**—Shortly after dark on the night of October 27, 1937, on entering the barn at our residence at 7615 Leighton Street with a lantern, a bird was startled from its roost and began to fly about. It was captured and caged, and on closer examination was found to be an European Starling. This specimen has been preserved in the collection of the Zoology Department of the University of Nebraska.—MISS BERTHA WHITE, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The European Starling and Other Birds at Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—On October 10, 1937, I saw three or four migrating Bobolinks at Lincoln. During the last few days in September, and up to and including October 1, there were troops of Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets about my home at 3103 South 35th Street. Northern Pine Siskins were noted on November 26, 1937. On December 26, 1937, I saw three European Starlings near my home. By January 9, 1938, the Starlings had increased to a flock of between thirty and forty birds.—MISS LOUISA WILSON, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**A Flock of Wintering European Starlings in Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—On January 15, 1938, I counted twenty-six European Starlings in a back yard near 40th and Sheridan Streets, within the Lincoln city limits. The bird seems to be increasing in this vicinity very rapidly.—L. H. WATSON, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Another Wintering Flock of European Starlings in Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—About January 15, 1938, I saw a flock of six European Starlings on the campus at Wesleyan University in Lincoln. Two were again seen on February 17 following, and subsequently, which pair is evidently preparing to nest this spring on the campus.—MRS. DWIGHT THOMAS, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Another Wintering Record of the European Starling in Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—On January 30, 1938, I saw a flock of ten European Starlings on my residence property and elsewhere in the neighborhood. They were shy, not allowing my approach closer than within about thirty feet.—DAVID C. HILTON, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**More European Starlings at Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—On February 21, 1938, I saw a flock of six European Starlings on the College of Agriculture campus in Lincoln.—RAYMOND ROBERTS, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**A March Flock of the European Starling at Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—On the evening of March 4, 1938, I saw a flock of between twenty-five and thirty European Starlings just north of the College of Agriculture campus in Lincoln.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The European Starling at Omaha, Douglas County.**—European Starlings were noted on several occasions at Omaha during the winter of 1937-38. On November 21 and 25, 1937, a flock of six of these birds visited our home grounds at 60th and Franklin Streets. Mr. William Marsh saw some at Elmwood Park on January 16, and eight of them at Fairacres on February 13, while Mr. Kenneth Reed saw some at close range at 22nd and Harrison on February 19, feeding on the blue berries of an evergreen, probably a juniper.—L. O. HORSKY, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**The European Starling in Dodge County.**—On April 1, 1938, in company with Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Gates and Mrs. Swenk, I saw a small flock of seven or eight European Starlings and a little farther on a pair on an old tree stub, all along the roadside just north of Uehling, Dodge County.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The European Starling in Cuming County.**—Early in December of 1937 an European Starling was captured near here and kept in captivity until it died on December 9. This is my first contact with this species in Cuming County. The specimen was sent to the University of Nebraska for preservation.—J. R. WATSON, *County Agricultural Agent, West Point, Nebr.*

**Another Cuming County Record for the European Starling.**—A press dispatch from Wisner, Cuming County, published January 4, 1938, states that an European Starling was caught in the basement of the John Nuerenberger home in that town, and subsequently kept in a cage for observation by Miss Bertha Maloney of that place. It had gotten into the basement by going down the chimney and through the furnace pipe into the soot chamber. The account stated that this was the first time that the species had been found in the Wisner vicinity.—WM. YOUNG-WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

**The European Starling Near Wayne, Wayne County.**—During a snow-storm in the winter of 1935-36, a flock of six European Starlings came to the farm of my father, Mr. True Prescott, three and one-half miles southwest of Wayne, Wayne County, and roosted each night in the hay loft of the barn for a period. One was killed by a cat, thus enabling accurate identification. A flock of about the same size returned in the winter of 1936-37. These are the first records known to me of the Starling for the Wayne vicinity.—R. T. PRESCOTT, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The European Starling in Johnson and Clay Counties.**—On February 6, 1938, I saw an European Starling at Sterling, Johnson County, and at the same time and place saw two Western Meadowlarks. On February 24, in Clay County, I identified three Starlings in with a flock of Horned Larks (subsp.) near Sutton, and a little west of that place one lone Starling, while a little later on the same day, south of Saronville, I noted a flock of fifteen Starlings.—O. S. BARE, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The European Starling Population in Nebraska Rapidly Increasing.**—Last fall (1937) a considerable flock of European Starlings wintered in the cupola of a barn on a farm near to my farm in York County, Nebraska. They were very wary. Recently it seems that many additional flocks have put in an appearance in southern Nebraska. During the last two weeks in February of 1938 I saw flocks between Lincoln, Lancaster County, and Beatrice, Gage County; both to the east and to the west of Hastings, Adams County; and, on February 24, along the road while driving the approximately forty miles distance between Lincoln and Friend, I saw a total of twelve different flocks of these birds—two flocks between Lincoln and Dorchester, Saline County, and ten flocks between Dorchester and Friend, Saline County—more than I have ever before seen in Nebraska. They seem to be coming into the state very rapidly now.—W. H. LYTLE, *Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The European Starling Present in Abundance in Nuckolls County.**—On December 8, 1937, a Mrs. Henderson living on a farm six miles east of Superior, Nuckolls County, brought a specimen of the European Starling to me. She stated that a flock of several hundred of these birds was then congregating in the barn on their farm and proving to be considerable of a nuisance.—MRS. H. C. JOHNSTON, *Superior, Nebr.*

**Wintering European Starlings Greatly Increasing in Adams County.**—Since early in November, 1937, European Starlings have been present by the hundreds in the vicinity of Hastings, Adams County. Mr. Donald Karr reports to me that he has seen flocks of them every time that he has been afield recently. At the present time (December 10, 1937), their greatest center of abundance seems to be around Juniata, in the north-central part of the county.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings Municipal Museum, Hastings, Nebr.*

**The European Starling in Kearney County.**—On November 22, 1937, Mr. Merle Johnson of Kearney noted a pair of European Starlings trying to get into the barn on his father's farm in Kearney County seven miles south of the city of Kearney. He shot the male bird and brought it to me. This is the first record known to me of the occurrence of this species in Kearney County.—CYRUS A. BLACK, *Kearney, Nebr.*

**More European Starlings in Kearney County.**—The European Starling has been seen in small flocks during the winter of 1937-38 for the first time in and around Newark, Kearney County.—V. W. BINDERUP, *Minden, Nebr.*

**The European Starling Present in Flocks Near Kearney, Buffalo County.**—During the second week in January, 1938, I saw a flock of European Starlings near Kearney, which is the farthest west I personally have observed them. I expect that the species will follow the Platte Valley into western Nebraska.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings Municipal Museum, Hastings, Nebr.*

**The European Starling Spreads West to Lincoln County.**—About five o'clock on the evening of December 13, 1937, at the Experiment Substation near North Platte, Lincoln County, I saw a flock of twenty to twenty-five birds that appeared to be composed of European Starlings. The birds were very suspicious and hard to approach, but I managed to get close enough to make certain of the identification and to collect a specimen, which I preserved for the Biology Department of the North Platte High School. After once shooting into the flock and collecting a specimen, I was not able again to approach the flock nearly closely enough to secure a second specimen.—HARRY E. WEAKLY, *Experiment Substation, North Platte, Nebr.*

**Addendum to the History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Nebraska.**—In that installment of my History of Nebraska Ornithology dealing with the Lewis and Clark Expedition (*antea*, iii, pp. 115-125), I inadvertently overlooked mentioning that Captain Clark (*Orig. Journ.*, vii, "Codex N", p. 122), in recording the presence of the Western Fox Squirrel as high up the river as "The Tower" in Boyd County, four miles below the present Nebraska-South Dakota boundary, noted that the "Missouri Whipperwill", by which he means the Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*), "is the common attendant of these squirrels". This brings the number of birds recorded for Nebraska by the Lewis and Clark Expedition to twenty-one.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The Eastern Great Horned Owl in Southern Gage County.**—Apropos of the discussion of the Great Horned Owl by Prof. Swenk in the October, 1937, number of the *Review* (*antea*, v, pp. 79-105), I wish to report that the Eastern Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) is a not uncommon resident along the Big Blue River and its tributary streams in southern Gage County. Last March we located a nest of this owl that contained a single downy young bird. I saw one of these owls just recently, during the last week in October, 1937. All of the Great Horned Owls that I have seen here have the strong tawny general coloration that is characteristic of the Eastern subspecies.—MRS. F. J. PATTON, *Blue Springs, Nebr.*

**Some Additional Observations on the Races of the Great Horned Owl.**—Among several comments that were received regarding my study of the distribution and migration of the Great Horned Owls in the Missouri Valley region (*antea*, v, pp. 79-105), some of the most interesting were received from Dr. Louis B. Bishop of Pasadena, California. Under date of November 9 he has written me as follows: "I have been interested in the Great Horned Owls for many years and have some 200 skins in my collection. I have long held that many races of this owl wander widely in winter, and your series of records of identified birds proves this. Had I known of your study I might have added a few records. From North Dakota I have three specimens of *subarcticus* (Arctic Great Horned Owl) and ten specimens of *occidentalis* (Western Great Horned Owl). From Roseau County in northwestern Minnesota I have nine specimens of *subarcticus*, thirteen specimens of *occidentalis*, and one each of *virginianus* (Eastern Great Horned Owl), *lagophonus* (Northwestern Great

Horned Owl), and *saturatus* (Dusky Great Horned Owl), all collected by P. O. Fryklund. I was surprised to learn that so many *lagophonus* travel so far south (as Nebraska) in winter, and still more of your (Nebraska) records of *pallascens* (Pallid Great Horned Owl). This last form I have never seen from east and north of Utah, New Mexico and southern Idaho. But then I recognize a color difference between this race and *occidentalis*, as well as size. *Pallascens* to me is a paler, buffier bird, with far less contrast between the light and dark portions of the plumage, and the form of the southwestern deserts, common into California east of the Sierras and in the Mojave Desert."

In this connection, it should be made clear that *pallascens*, as above defined by Dr. Bishop, probably does not occur in Nebraska. His definition is of the Pallid Great Horned Owl in its strictest interpretation, with a range largely confined to the southwestern desert areas. But if size alone is taken as a criterion, proceeding northward from New Mexico and southwestern Texas it becomes difficult to establish the line where true *pallascens* ends, for scarcely larger birds occur north to southwestern Kansas; and it is this latter interpretation of *pallascens* that was used by the writer in his paper. Following the receipt of Dr. Bishop's letter, however, the small Great Horned Owl taken near Holstein, Adams County, Nebraska, on December 7, 1933, which was referred to by the writer to *pallascens* (p. 100), has been secured and carefully re-studied, with the conclusion that, in spite of its very small size, the original identification of this specimen as a "dark-colored example of *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*" (*antea*, ii, p. 7) is the more logical one, and the Nebraska record of *pallascens* based upon it is therefore withdrawn. The Saunders County specimen was both small and pale-colored, and, for the present at least, its identification as a post-breeding season wandering individual of *pallascens* will be permitted to stand.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**An Explanation of the Local Variations Occurring in the Great Horned Owls.**—In connection with the point of the occurrence of different subspecies of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) in the same locality, I may state that I have been gathering material to study these owls for some time, but specializing on breeding birds, which I think is the only material it is safe to use in studying some of these difficult subspecies. I find, as M. H. Swenk has indicated in his paper in the October, 1937, number of the *Review*, that in winter these birds wander very widely. Almost any subspecies can then be taken almost anywhere. The surprise is that occasionally these winter wanderers remain to breed in localities far from their natural range. They thus set up foci of heterogeneity in local races that may persist for several generations, if not indefinitely. This seems to be the explanation of the extraordinary variation that these owls present. I find four well-marked subspecies across Canada, but every here and there are breeding individuals that present characters quite foreign to the generality of the local race. I have several complete families, young with parents, and the way the offspring "throw" is ample evidence of the mixed though perhaps recessive genes in the parents. I doubt if many, perhaps any, of these birds are of pure line strain without more or less concealed potentialities of other races. In many ways I find the species parallels in extensive mongrelization what I made out in the Red-tailed Hawks.

It is really not so surprising that birds occasionally breed outside their natural habitat. The surprise would be if they did not. We know the homing instinct is strong in migrant species. But the movements of these big owls is more an irregular wandering than any fixed migration. I doubt that their migratory reflexes are as well fixed as in more regularly migratory species, or that the homing instinct is as highly developed. That northern birds of late breeding date finding themselves in an actively breeding community should occasionally mate with resident birds

of another race is quite to be expected. It would only have to happen occasionally to present the instability of the type postulated. All of which may be speculative, but I do not think that current systematic ornithology has paid enough attention to the teaching of modern genetics.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Can.*

**Bird Notes from Battle Creek, Madison County.**—The Piñon Jays (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*) that I first noted at Battle Creek on January 18 and 24, 1937 (*antea*, v. p. 33), remained through the rest of the winter and were frequent visitors at our place. I also heard of American Magpies (*Pica pica hudsonia*) having been seen repeatedly during the winter of 1936-37, one man reporting a number of them among some Eastern Crows. One of my pupils living near the Elkhorn River reported that Eastern Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*) appeared around their house during the snowy weather, and after they had built a feeding place for them among some vines as many as six pairs came to feed. Once during the winter I noted a Cedar Wax-wing, and one day this spring large flocks of migrating Eastern Slate-colored Juncos and Eastern Chipping Sparrows were noted in our yard, and numerous Franklin Gulls were noted on April 28, 1937.—MOLLIE A. TAYLOR, *Battle Creek, Nebr.*

**An Unusually Heavy Migration of Blue and Lesser Snow Geese Up the Missouri River in the Spring of 1937.**—During March and early April of 1937, the Blue Geese and Lesser Snow Geese came up the flood plain of the Missouri River Valley in seemingly greater numbers than anyone that I have talked to can remember. Certainly the flocks of these geese were the largest, and included the most individual birds of these species that I have noted during the past ten years that I have spent on the river. A small flock of about twenty Blue Geese and one Lesser Snow Goose lingered near Blue Lake, Monona County, Iowa, as late as April 15, and became so tame that one could park a car within 100 feet of them as they fed near the highway. Even honking the car horn would not make them fly. Of Canada Geese (subsp.) I noted only one flock this spring (1937), along the Missouri in Sarpy County on April 2. I noted the first Great Blue Heron (subsp.) on the river between Nemaha County, Nebraska, and Atchison County, Missouri, on March 29. Other noteworthy dates of arrival were a Savannah Sparrow (subsp.) in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, on April 1; an Eastern Phoebe in Harrison County, Iowa, on April 8; Lesser Yellow-legs and a Belted Kingfisher in Richardson County, Nebraska, on April 10; and a Vesper Sparrow (subsp.) in Burt County, Nebraska, on April 15.—F. W. HAECKER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**Some Missouri River Bird Notes for the Spring of 1937.**—The following notes were made between mid-April and early June of 1937, chiefly along the Nebraska (N) and Iowa (I) sides of the Missouri River. A group of American Eared Grebes was noted along the river between Thurston County (N) and Monona County (I) on May 5. A Common Pied-billed Grebe was seen in Monona County (I) on May 6. White Pelicans were seen between Burt County (N) and Monona County (I) on April 27. An American Bittern was noted, and a few apparently uninjured Blue Geese were still present, in Monona County (I) on May 5. The first Shovellers were seen in Washington County (N) on April 17, and a flock of Northern Ruddy Ducks between Thurston (N) and Monona (I) Counties on May 5. The first Northern Turkey Vulture was seen in Nemaha County (N) on May 13. On May 18, a pair of Northern Red-shouldered Hawks were seen in Doniphan County, Kansas. Although I have kept a record on every hawk I have seen in the Missouri Valley for the past several years, I seem never to see more than two or three of this species in a year. My first Northern Broad-winged Hawk of the season was observed in northeastern Sarpy County (N) on April 18. On May 21, on a small bar in the river between Thurston (N) and Monona (I)



Counties, I noted a lone Black-bellied Plover in fine spring plumage. An Upland Plover was seen in Lincoln County, South Dakota, on June 4. The first Spotted Sandpipers were seen in Burt County (N), near Decatur, on May 12. Lesser Yellow-legs and Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in Monona County (I) on May 6 and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Nemaha County (N) on May 17. The first Franklin Gulls were seen between Thurston (N) and Monona (I) Counties on April 23. Forster Terns were noted in Nemaha County (N) on May 17, and Eastern Least Terns appeared on their nesting grounds, between Thurston (N) and Monona (I) Counties, on May 21. American Black Terns were noted on the river near Decatur (N) on May 12.

The first Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo was noted in Richardson County (N) on May 26. A Great Horned Owl (subsp.) was seen south of Omaha on May 9. The first Chimney Swifts were seen in Lancaster County (N) on May 2. The first Eastern Kingbird was seen in Nemaha County (N) on May 1, and the first Arkansas Kingbird in Monona County (I) on May 11. This latter species still seems to be working farther east every year. Bennitt in his *Check-List of the Birds of Missouri* (1932) lists it as "casual and probably rare summer resident in Western Missouri". Now it is quite common in northwestern Missouri. The Northern Crested Flycatcher and Least Flycatcher were noted south of Omaha on May 9. Tree Swallows were seen in Richardson County (N) on April 22, and the first Barn Swallow in Burt County (N) on May 4. The Western House Wren was first noted in Monona County (I) on May 6, the first Catbird in Doniphan County, Kansas, on May 14, and the first Brown Thrasher in Leavenworth County, Kansas, on April 21. Olive-backed Swainson Thrushes were numerous near Omaha on May 9. Cedar Waxwings were noted in Sarpy County (N) on April 18. A pair of European Starlings was found nesting in an old woodpecker hole in a dead willow tree on the bank of the river in Pottawattamie County (I) on April 30. There is one bird that you can find in full voice at any time during the late spring and summer on the willow bars along the Missouri River, and that is the Northern Bell Vireo. It seems to be the commonest bird of the willow bars. The Red-eyed Vireo was noted in Monona County (I) on May 6 and the Eastern Warbling Vireo in Pottawattamie County (I) on May 7.

On May 9, Hanscom Park in Omaha was overflowing with Tennessee Warblers, and many Ovenbirds and American Redstarts were seen south of Omaha in Sarpy County. The Yellow Warbler (subsp.) was noted in Monona County (I) on May 6, and the first Maryland Yellow-throat (subsp.) in Nemaha County on May 8. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were unusually plentiful the past spring along the Missouri River. I noted them first along the road of the South Omaha bridge approach in Pottawattamie County (I) on April 22, and afterwards saw many flocks along the Nebraska side of the river. The Baltimore Oriole was first seen in Pottawattamie County (I) on May 7, and the Orchard Oriole in Nemaha County (N) on April 18. My first Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak were seen south of Omaha on May 9. My first Indigo Bunting was seen in Doniphan County, Kansas, on May 14, and my first Dickcissel in Cass County (N) on May 7. I saw a Lark Bunting in McCook County, South Dakota, on June 4. The Eastern Lark Sparrow was seen in Pottawattamie County (I) on April 30, and Eastern Slate-colored Juncos still lingered in Monona County (I) on April 27, at which latter place and date the first Eastern Chipping Sparrows were seen. Clay-colored Sparrows abounded in Hanscom Park in Omaha on May 9. My first Field Sparrow (subsp.) was noted in Washington County (N) on April 17, and the White-throated Sparrow in Monona County (I) on May 6.—F. W. HAECKER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**The 1937 Bird Migration at Fairbury, Jefferson County.**—Up to the close of June we had identified 147 species of birds in 1937 in the vicinity

of Fairbury, Jefferson County. On January 1 our list was started with the Marsh Hawk, Eastern Bob-white, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark (subsp.), Eastern Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), European Starling, Western Meadowlark, American Goldfinch (subsp.), and Tree Sparrow (subsp.). The Song Sparrow (subsp.) and Screech Owl (subsp.) were added on January 3 and 6, respectively. February additions were the Long-eared Owl and Northern Shrike (subsp.) on the 1st, the Northern Killdeer on the 15th, the Canada Goose (subsp.) on the 22nd, the Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Robin and Red-eyed Eastern Towhee on the 26th, and the Western Mourning Dove on the 27th. March additions were the Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker on the 2nd, Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.) on the 3rd, Common Mallard and Gadwall on the 7th, American Pintail, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Arctic Spotted Towhee on the 8th, White-fronted Goose on the 9th, American Barn Owl on the 10th, Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet on the 15th, Common Red-shafted Flicker on the 16th, Lesser Snow Goose, Blue Goose, and Eastern Great Horned Owl on the 17th, American Rough-legged Hawk on the 18th, Cooper Hawk on the 26th, and Cowbird (subsp.) on the 30th. April arrivals included the Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 2nd, Baldpate on the 3rd, Redhead, Canvas-back and Northern Ruddy Duck on the 5th, Brown Thrasher on the 7th, Northern American Coot, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs and Baird Sandpiper on the 10th, Sandhill Brown Crane on the 15th, Bronzed Grackle and Vesper Sparrow (subsp.) on the 16th, Tree Swallow and Rough-winged Swallow on the 17th, Mockingbird (subsp.) and Hermit Thrush (subsp.) on the 20th, Eastern Green Heron on the 24th, American Black-crowned Night Heron, Bank Swallow and Eastern Common Bluebird on the 26th, Lincoln Sparrow on the 27th, and Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Olive-backed Swainson Thrush, Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler, Eastern Myrtle Warbler, Wilson Pileolated Warbler, Savannah Sparrow (subsp.), Western Grasshopper Sparrow and Field Sparrow (subsp.) on the 30th.

The May arrivals were the Sora, Solitary Sandpiper (subsp.), American Caspian Tern, Chimney Swift, Least Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Northern Blue Jay, Western House Wren, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow (subsp.), and Gambel Sparrow on the 1st, Green-winged Teal, Catbird, Magnolia Warbler, Grinnell Common Water-Thrush, Louisiana Water-Thrush and Yellow-headed Blackbird on the 2nd, American Magpie and Orchard Oriole on the 5th, Eastern Kingbird and Black and White Warbler on the 6th, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Maryland Yellow-throat (subsp.), Baltimore Oriole, Dickcissel, Clay-colored Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow on the 7th, American Eared Grebe, American Bittern, Western Willet, Upland Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson Phalarope, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Purple Martin and Bobolink on the 9th, Nighthawk (subsp.) and Migrant Loggerhead Shrike on the 10th, Northern Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron (subsp.), Northern Little Blue Heron, Lesser Scaup, Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher (subsp.), Semipalmated Sandpiper, Franklin Gull, American Black Tern, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Bell Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-poll Warbler, Chat (subsp.), American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Eastern White-crowned Sparrow and Eastern Chipping Sparrow on the 11th, Western Blue Grosbeak on the 14th, and Black-billed Cuckoo on the 20th. An Eastern Least Tern was seen on June 13, and an Eastern Yellow-bellied

Sapsucker on June 26. The last Eastern Slate-colored Junco was seen about April 1, and the last Harris Sparrow about April 20.—MISSSES AGNESS and SUSIE CALLAWAY, and MR. and MRS. CHARLES RICHARDSON, *Fairbury, Nebr.*

**Some 1937 Bird Notes from Near Holstein, Adams County.**—Lesser Snow Geese were noted on March 11 (flock of about 35 with a couple of Canada Geese intermixed), 17 (flock of about 25), and 22 (several large flocks). American Pintails were noted on February 22 (flock of about 35) and March 2 (several flocks), while on March 24 they were numerous, along with other ducks. Only a few Cooper Hawks were seen in 1937. A nest of the Eastern Red-tailed Hawk containing two young birds was found on July 11. Red-tailed and Swainson Hawks were present in average numbers in the fall migration, the Red-tailed Hawk from about August 20 and the Swainson Hawk from about September 1 on to early October. American Rough-legged Hawks were noted on January 19, February 9 (2) and February 27 (several). An American Golden Eagle was noted on December 30, 1936. The Marsh Hawk was seen on January 1 and 4, and March 10 and 29, and again became common about August 1, but the bulk of the flight was between August 15 and September 15. The species was about as numerous as in 1936. The Pigeon Hawk (subsp.), Prairie Falcon, and Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), were noted respectively on January 24, February 11, and March 10. Sparrow Hawks began migrating through southward about August 10, but the majority passed through between September 10 and 25. The first Prairie Falcon of the fall was noted on September 15. The first Upland Plover was noted on July 7, and occasionally thenceforth throughout July and frequently in August up to about the 20th. The Northern Killdeer and Eastern Common Bluebird was first noted on March 10 and the first Robins were seen on March 13. An American Magpie was seen repeatedly at intervals between January 19 and March 15. A Common Rock Wren was noted in our yard on September 27, and remained about for a few days. A flock of about 150 Lapland Longspurs (subsp.) was seen on February 12.—HAROLD TURNER, *Bladen, Nebr.*

**Some 1937 Notes on Whooping Cranes and Other Birds.**—In addition to the Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*) noted by Judge Fitzsimmons of Elwood, near Lexington on March 23, 1937, and those seen in the Kearney vicinity on April 2, 3, and 10 (*antea*, v, pp. 33, 57-58, and 106), in talking with some of my fellow hunters on my annual duck hunt around the Garden County lakes north of Oshkosh, in November, I learned that two flocks, each of twenty-five or thirty of these birds, probably different individuals from any previously reported, had been seen by them last April. This would place at about 159 the probable total of unduplicated individual Whooping Cranes seen in Nebraska by different observers during the spring of 1937.

On the Garden County lakes in November, in addition to many geese (although we were a little early for the main goose flight) and many Common Mallards, I saw two small flocks of Greater Yellow-legs. Greater Prairie Chickens and Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse seemed quite plentiful, but not as much so as in the same locality a year ago (*antea*, v, p. 10).—CYRUS A. BLACK, *Kearney, Nebr.*

**Some Nebraska Bird Notes for the Summer of 1937.**—I spent the period from June 6 to 9, inclusive, in the vicinity of Hastings, Adams County, and listed sixty-seven species of birds. About 100 Franklin Gulls were seen, apparently all without the nearly solidly black heads characteristic of the spring migrants. Among the species that may be listed as abundant were the Western Mourning Dove, Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds, Northern Blue Jay, Western House Wren, Eastern Yellow Warbler, English House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. Species commonly seen included the American Black-

crowned Night Heron, American Pintail, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Northern Killdeer, Baird and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Forster and American Black Terns, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Western Burrowing Owl, Sennett (?) Nighthawk, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed, Eastern Hairy, and Northern Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Rough-winged, Barn, and Eastern Cliff Swallows, Eastern Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), Mockingbird (subsp.), Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike (subsp.), European Starling, Northern Bell, Red-eyed, and Eastern Warbling Vireos, Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, Bobolink, Thick-billed Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird (subsp.), Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Eastern Cardinal, Dickcissel, Eastern American Goldfinch, and Western Grasshopper and Western Lark Sparrows. Single individuals of the American Bittern, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), Alder Trail Flycatcher (collected at Wood River, Hall County, June 7), Long-tailed Chat, and Lark Bunting (male) were seen. One pair each of the Baldpate and Blue-winged Teal were noted. Two Eastern Phoebees and three Rocky Mountain Say Phoebees were seen.

The period from June 10 to 13, inclusive, was spent in Boyd County, working along Ponca Creek, around Butte and Spencer, and environs. Forty-five species were listed. As at Hastings, the Western Mourning Dove, Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds, English House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles were abundant, as was also the Bronzed Grackle. Species commonly seen were the Marsh Hawk, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sennett Nighthawk, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Eastern Hairy and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Saskatchewan Horned Lark, Rough-winged, Barn, and Eastern Cliff Swallows, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike (subsp.), Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, Thick-billed Red-winged Blackbird, Cowbird (subsp.), Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, and Western Grasshopper and Western Lark Sparrows. Individuals of the Swainson Hawk, Western Great Horned Owl, Scarlet Tanager (male), and Arctic Spotted Towhee (male), were seen, as was also a pair of the Eastern Phoebe.

Two Upland Plovers were seen flying across the road in the wet meadow country between O'Neill, Holt County, and Bartlett, Wheeler County, on June 10, and one was seen standing on a fence post just south of Columbus, Platte County, on June 13. Also on June 13, two Eastern Least Terns were seen flying over the Platte River near Columbus, and the Western Burrowing Owl was noted standing on one foot on a fence post beside the road near David City, Butler County. At the Oak Creek pond near Lincoln on July 4 a Common Pied-billed Grebe, five American Black Terns, two Lesser Yellow-legs, and a male Wilson Phalarope, presumably non-breeding birds, were seen. The Eastern Least Bittern was noted around the fish ponds at the State Fish Hatchery near Gretna on July 20 and 28, and on the former date a very flimsy nest of the Dickcissel, with large holes in the sides, was found about two feet up on the weeds on the bank of an irrigation ditch near Linoma Beach. A nest of the Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo located about twelve feet up in a boxelder tree in Lincoln, containing four fresh eggs, blew down in a storm on July 30. A migrant Northern American Coot and three Solitary Sandpipers (subsp.) were seen at Sprague, Lancaster County, on August 3. On August 24, twelve freshly killed Eastern Kingbirds were

picked up along Highway 20, five miles west of O'Neill, Holt County, within a distance of 100 yards, one being an adult and eleven immature birds, all apparently killed by autos. The road here ran along a small grove of boxelders with a high power line at the side. On September 27, at Lincoln, a male Wilson Pileolated Warbler was seen on the University campus. On October 8, a Prairie Falcon was seen on a telephone pole near Halsey, Thomas County, and a flock of twenty-five Little Brown (?) Cranes was seen flying over at Ravenna, Buffalo County.

I spent August 15 and 16, and October 8 to 10, 1937, at Beaver Lake, Cherry County, Nebraska, and among the more interesting birds observed there on those dates, the following may be mentioned. On the August dates, a flock of seventeen Southern Long-billed Curlews, and one additional lone bird were seen, along with a flock of six Avocets and several other individuals of that species. Four Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen. The American Black Tern was abundant, most of the birds being molting adults and immatures. Near Burge, southwest of Valentine, on August 16, I saw two Northern Turkey Vultures and one Common Rock Wren. On October 10, a Pigeon Hawk (subsp.) was noted flying near the margin of Beaver Lake.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, *Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Mid-June Records for the Avocet and Lewis Woodpecker in Western Nebraska.**—In a trip across Nebraska during the middle of June, 1937, at Broadwater, Morrill County, along the North Platte River, I saw two Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) on June 16, and in Sioux County north of Harrison on June 18 I saw a Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewis*), both of which species I have found to be uncommon in the state.—L. M. GATES, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**A Large Flock of White Pelicans Seen in Cass County.**—The Omaha Nature Study Club held a field trip in Cass County on September 26, 1937, visiting the limestone quarries at Nehawka and Weeping Water, in which trip forty-two persons participated. During the stop for lunch at Springdale, the artistic home of Mr. John Larsch, the entire field party was thrilled by the flight overhead of a flock of about 100 White Pelicans.—L. O. HORSKY, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**The Northern Black-throated Green Warbler in Logan County.**—Our yard in Stapleton, Logan County, was alive with small birds on the morning of October 17, 1937. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Myrtle Warblers were flitting about, and the notes of the White-breasted Nuthatch could be heard in the distance. Some strange bird notes attracted my attention, and, focusing the field glasses on one bird, I was able to identify it as the Northern Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens virens*). During the same forenoon I saw several others of this species, which is an addition to our local bird list, and was able further to verify my original identification.—MRS EARL W. GLANDON, *Stapleton, Nebr.*

**Some Grosbeak Observations from Scotts Bluff County.**—The vicinity of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, seems to be an ideal location for grosbeaks. A great many Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks (*Hedymeles melanocephalus papago*) are reared in this locality each summer. The Western Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea interfusa*) is not nearly as common, but one was seen in the canyon west of town in August of 1937. On October 24, 1937, we saw four pairs of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator ? montana*) in a canyon south of Gering, this being our first observation of the species in this vicinity. There was a spring in this canyon, and the grosbeaks flew down and drank from it at a distance of only a few feet from us, quite unafraid and keeping up a constant chatter. On November 4, 1936, an Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina ? brooksi*) was watched for the entire day, as it fed on dogwood berries and weed seeds in our back yard.—MR. and MRS. ROY J. WITSCHY, *Scottsbluff, Nebr.*

**Some Bird Observations Made in 1937 at Red Cloud, Webster County.—**Supplementary or in addition to the previously published dates of spring arrival at Red Cloud (*antea*, v, pp. 59-66), it may be mentioned that Harold Ludlow saw several Lark Buntings on May 8 and a flock of twenty-one of them on May 20. The first Eastern Green Herons were noted on May 21 and 22, and later on June 24 and July 31. I saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on May 21, and an American Bittern on May 24. Also on May 24 the first Bob-white (subsp.) of the year was noted. Two Bob-whites were later heard whistling in the orchard, on June 10, and one was there again on July 12. A pair of Diskcissels had started nesting on May 22, and by June 1 these birds were numerous in an alfalfa field. The Eastern Robins and Bronzed Grackles both had young in their nests on May 30, by which date numerous other kinds of birds were nesting.

A Great Horned Owl, fully grown but evidently a bird of the year, was noted in the orchard on June 3, 4, 8 and 9, and was quite unafraid. Either the same or another individual of the species was observed on August 3. Barn Swallows were nesting in a shed on June 5. Young Bronzed Grackles were numerous by June 19. Three young Catbirds and a young Western Mourning Dove were seen on June 24, and other young doves were noted on June 27 (two), July 4 (three), and 17 (three). Eastern Belted Kingfishers were seen along the creek on June 24. Three young Baltimore Orioles were seen on June 26, and three others on July 11. Young Eastern Robins of the second brood were in evidence on June 30. Two young Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen on July 2. Young Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen on July 3 and 4. On July 7, three young Eastern Kingbirds were seen, and on July 26 a nest of the same species with three young in it was found. Closely paralleling the preceding, on July 9 five young Arkansas Kingbirds were seen, and on July 26 a nest with four young of this species was found. Two young Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted on July 12, on which day I saw also a Swainson Hawk, my first midsummer date for that species. A nest containing four young Brown Thrashers was found on July 13, and one young bird still remained in the nest on July 24. A young Eastern Crow was observed on July 14 and another on July 21. Crows do not seem to have increased locally to the usual extent, in 1937.

During the latter part of July, the young birds gorged themselves on the abundance of grasshoppers. On July 25, I noticed flocks of young Red-winged Blackbirds (subsp.) and Bronzed Grackles feeding on the grasshoppers in our fields, and I think noticeably reducing their numbers. Young Red-winged Blackbirds became increasingly common from August 16 to 23. On August 18 I saw thousands of blackbirds of both of these species feeding on the Milo Sorgo and other seed sorghums and doing great damage, sometimes cleaning all the seed from a ten-acre field in a few days. Bronzed Grackles began to appear in large flocks by August 25, and by August 28 enormous assemblages of these birds were present. A flock noted on the morning of that day was two miles long, thirty to forty feet wide, with the birds fairly close (estimated about three birds to the foot). This flock destroyed a six-acre patch of Kafir in six to eight days. Grackles were numerous to September 11, less so September 14 to 18, and relatively few by September 23 to October 3; but by October 10 they were again numerous, and the following day were present by the hundreds. Flocks of thousands of migrant Eastern Crows had arrived and gathered south of the Republican River by October 12, and were still present in the woods along the river on November 14.

By August 1, both young and old Baltimore Orioles were consorting in family groups. The first flock of Blue-winged Teals was seen on the river on August 3, and by October 10 they were numerous on the ponds and lakes. I noted a young Rose-breasted Grosbeak on August 17. Small

troops of American Goldfinches (subsp.) were seen August 24 and 31, and September 1 to 5, and again on October 15 to 17 and November 10 (four). A flock of nine migrating Franklin Gulls was seen on September 6. Saskatchewan Horned Larks were flocking by September 8 to 13, and flocks believed to be of this form were noted on October 11 and 27. An Eastern Cardinal was seen on October 3. A flock of about forty-two Brown Cranes (subsp.) was seen on October 6. During the night of October 6, several large flocks of geese passed over. Arctic Spotted Towhees were noted in migration on October 7 (one), November 11 (one), and 14 (flock). Ducks that were numerous on the ponds and lakes by October 10 were the Common Mallard, American Pintail, and Shoveller, and on the same date some ducks taken to be Black Ducks (subsp.) were seen. Geese and ducks were seen October 27, and subsequent to the cold weather of November 14 up to November 20, large flocks of ducks and geese were observed.

The following are the last dates on which thirty-four summer residents were recorded in the fall of 1937, together with several dates immediately preceding the final one:

Orchard Oriole. July 26. (July 11, six).  
 Mockingbird (subsp.). Aug. 11, three along the Republican River.  
 Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Aug. 15. (Aug. 4-7, 10).  
 Dickcissel. Aug. 16. (Aug. 10, four, 15).  
 Eastern Green Heron. Sept. 1. (Aug. 1-12, 20, 22, 23).  
 Eastern Kingbird. Sept. 2, four. (Aug. 3, 4, 7, 11). Local birds gone Aug. 18.  
 Upland Plover. Sept. 4, three. (Aug. 4, 5).  
 Yellow Warbler (subsp.). Sept. 5. (Sept. 4).  
 Arkansas Kingbird. Sept. 7. (Sept. 4, 5). Local birds gone Aug. 20.  
 Red-headed Woodpecker. Sept. 8. (Aug. 18-21, 24, 26, 28-30, Sept. 5-7).  
 Eastern Warbling Vireo. Sept. 10. (Sept. 4-7).  
 Baltimore Oriole. Sept. 11. (Sept. 1-10).  
 Rough-winged Swallow. Sept. 11. (Sept. 6-10).  
 Barn Swallow. Sept. 15. (Sept. 5-7, 14).  
 Western House Wren. Sept. 17. (Aug. 21, 22, 24, 29, Sept. 1, 3, 15, 16).  
 Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak. Sept. 17. (Aug. 10, 11, 16, 18-30).  
 Catbird. Sept. 18. (Aug. 18-30, Sept. 14, 15, 17).  
 Swainson Hawk. Sept. 20. (Aug. 24, 30, Sept. 12, 17, 18).  
 Nighthawk. Sept. 23, flock. (Aug. 21-31, Sept. 1-11, flocks).  
 Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker. Sept. 27, six.  
 Least Flycatcher. Oct. 6.  
 Northern Blue Jay. Oct. 10. (Aug. 10-31, Sept. 1-26, numerous, Oct. 6, flock).  
 Northern Killdeer. Oct. 17. (Aug. 21, Sept. 6-8, 13-21, Oct. 11).  
 Western Mourning Dove. Oct. 20. (Aug. 23-31, Sept. 1-14, 30, Oct. 6).  
 Eastern Common Bluebird. Oct. 21, two. (Oct. 11, 20).  
 Eastern Meadowlark. Oct. 24. (Aug. 21-24, 26, Oct. 9, 12).  
 Western Grasshopper Sparrow. Nov. 12. (Oct. 12, numerous).  
 Bronzed Grackle. Nov. 14, flock in woods along river.  
 Eastern Belted Kingfisher. Nov. 20. (Aug. 3, 8-11, Sept. 3, Oct. 10).  
 Eastern Robin. Nov. 26. (Sept. 18-27, flocking, Oct. 1-3, 6, flock, Nov. 10, two, 15, one, 17, two, 25).  
 Western Meadowlark. Nov. 26. (Aug. 21-24, 26, Oct. 9, 12, 24, Nov. 25).  
 Sparrow Hawk (subsp.). Dec. 6. (July 28-30, Aug. 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 16, 19, 27, Sept. 27, Dec. 5, one).  
 Marsh Hawk. Dec. 2. (Oct. 24, 27).

The following are the first and subsequent dates on which thirteen fall and winter visitors were observed in the fall of 1937:

Prairie Falcon. Aug. 20, one. (Sept. 11, 21, Oct. 24, Dec. 27. On latter date the falcon was chasing a pigeon, which escaped by flying into the barn).

Harris Sparrow. Oct. 14. (Oct. 15-21, 23-25, Nov. 6, 10, Dec. 2, 3, 11, 12, 27).

Common Redpoll. Oct. 24, six. (Nov. 4, twelve).

Song Sparrow (subsp.). Nov. 2.

Harlan Hawk. Nov. 3, one. (Nov. 10, 25, 26, Dec. 12, one bird on each date).

Tree Sparrow (subsp.). Nov. 5, flock. (Nov. 6, 20).

Eastern Purple Finch (?). Nov. 13, eight. (Nov. 17, flock, 18-20, eighteen, 23, 27, Dec. 6, 27, flocks).

Eastern Slate-colored Junco. Nov. 24.

Prairie Horned Lark. Nov. 25, flock. (Nov. 26, Dec. 1).

Northern Pine Siskin. Nov. 27, flock of eleven.

Shufeldt Oregon Junco. Nov. 27. (Nov. 28-30).

Hoyt Horned Lark. Dec. 1.

Piñon Jay. Dec. 1. (Dec. 2, 3).

—CHARLES S. LUDLOW, *Red Cloud, Nebr.*

**The Red Crossbill in Webster County in the Fall of 1937 and Winter of 1937-38.**—Since I noted the three Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra ? benti*) here on August 5 to 11, 1937, and heard one on August 18 (*antea*, v, pp. 110-111), I have seen or heard more of these birds every once in a while. On November 4, 1937, I saw a flock of twelve flying over. Three were seen on November 14. I think they are attracted to the linden tree by the tiny nuts upon it. They stayed with us all of the winter of 1937-38, up to February 12, 1938.—MRS. GEORGE W. TRINE, *Red Cloud, Nebr.*

**The Snowy Owl in Lincoln County.**—Two Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nyctea*) were taken in the North Platte vicinity during December, 1937. Both specimens are being mounted.—WILSON TOUT, *North Platte, Nebr.*

**Some Bird Notes from Hastings, Adams County.**—There seems to have been a considerable flight of the Western Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus occidentalis*) into this region during the fall and early winter of 1937, and since September up to date (December 10, 1937), ten specimens have come to the Hastings Museum and been preserved. Also we have received two specimens of the American Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) and one of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* subsp.). Piñon Jays are reported present this fall in the vicinity of Kenesaw, in the northwestern part of the county. A specimen of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos* subsp.) was taken here at Hastings by Mr. Donald Karr on the unusually late date of December 5, 1937.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings Municipal Museum, Hastings, Nebr.*

**Western Meadowlarks Linger Unusually Late in Logan County.**—Hundreds of Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*) were observed to be present in Logan County in 1937 as late as December 16, although much cold weather, with temperatures as low as nine degrees below zero, had been experienced. While a few of these birds remain in this locality almost every winter, it is unusual that so many should have remained so late this season.—MR. and MRS. EARL W. GLANDON, *Stapleton, Nebr.*

**The Eastern Meadowlark in Western Nebraska.**—The Crescent Lake Refuge in Garden County is about fifteen miles west of the northwardly projected Nebraska-Colorado boundary line, and is about eighty miles east of the eastern boundary line of the state of Wyoming. It was in this area that in 1936 we found the Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*) to be a not uncommon bird. The Eastern Meadowlark was also found in small numbers in various parts of the Loup River drainage area in the central part of the state.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*



**A Flock of Robins Wintering Near Archer, Merrick County.**—In December, 1937, a flock of twenty-eight Robins (*Turdus migratorius* subsp.) appeared in the grove on the farm of Mr. F. A. Marsh, near Archer, and after remaining there for a time disappeared. Mr. Marsh's grove is a mixed growth of cottonwoods and red cedars, with some elms and other trees. On January 9, 1938, I encountered a flock of Robins in a grove of similar tree composition located a few miles from Mr. Marsh's place. I counted twenty-six of the birds, and there were a few flying about over the ground that I did not get to count accurately, but estimate there were altogether about thirty birds in the group. This is the first time that I have encountered Robins wintering in flocks in Merrick County.—DEAN E. ECKHOFF, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The 1937 Fall Migration at Hastings, Adams County.**—The following represent the principal bird observations made by members of the Brookings Bird Club during the fall of 1937. Warblers were scarce. A migrant Wood Thrush and two Eastern Nashville Warblers were noted by Mrs. A. H. Jones on September 21. Mrs. F. L. Youngblood saw three Black and White Warblers on September 23. The first Eastern Brown Creeper of the season was seen by Mrs. A. E. Olsen on September 28. Mrs. A. M. Jones saw Cedar Waxwings on October 3. A field trip along the Little Blue River on October 8 by Mesdames A. M. Brooking, A. H. and A. M. Jones, and A. E. Olsen yielded twenty-eight species, as follows: Great Blue Heron (subsp.), Shoveller, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Northern Killdeer, Lesser Yellow-legs, Western Mourning Dove, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Northern Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Mockingbird (subsp.), Eastern Robin, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.), Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird (subsp.), Eastern Cardinal, Arctic Spotted Towhee, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow (subsp.), Harris Sparrow, Eastern White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Common Lincoln Sparrow. Also on October 8, Mrs. Youngblood saw a Mourning Warbler, and on the following day a Maryland Yellow-throat (subsp.). The last Baltimore Oriole of the season, a female, was seen on October 10. On October 16, Mrs. A. M. Brooking and Miss M. Caryle Sylla saw the Eastern Myrtle Warbler and Black-poll Warbler, and Mesdames J. D. Fuller and A. M. Jones, and Miss Martha Cousley saw a Black-throated Green Warbler. Mrs. Youngblood noted the Least Flycatcher on October 17. Northern Blue Jays were seen on October 17 by Mrs. Youngblood and on October 24 by Mrs. A. H. Jones, while a pair remained to winter in the Hastings vicinity. Eastern Robins were still numerous on October 20, and one was seen by Mrs. A. H. Jones as late as November 2.

Northern Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches (subsp.) were noted by Mrs. A. M. Jones on October 24, while Mrs. Youngblood saw a Red-headed Woodpecker on that date. The Shufeldt Oregon Junco was noted by Mrs. A. H. Jones on October 25. Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones saw an Eastern Purple Finch on November 2, and the latter a Red-breasted Nuthatch on November 25. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rantz saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker and Eastern Common Bluebirds on November 7, and Mesdames Brooking, Fuller, and A. M. Jones saw twenty-four of the latter species on November 9. Mrs. A. M. Jones saw Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets on November 11 and 12, and Mrs. Dorr Mahoney saw a large flock of Western Meadowlarks on November 25. Mrs. Brooking saw Cowbirds (subsp.) on November 26, and Mr. Brooking recorded a Migrant Loggerhead Shrike for December 19. A field trip along the Little Blue River and in the Hastings city parks made on December 28 by fifteen members of the Brookings Bird Club again enabled the listing of twenty-eight species, as follows: Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Wilson Snipe, Greater Prairie Chicken, Eastern Belted Kingfisher,

Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark (subsp.), Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Brown Creeper, Eastern Winter Wren, Eastern Robin, Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, English House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Eastern Cardinal, American Goldfinch (subsp.), Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow (subsp.), Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow (subsp.), Harris Sparrow, and Song Sparrow (subsp.).—MRS. A. H. JONES, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**The Steller Jay and Other Birds in Scotts Bluff County.**—The early winter of 1937-38 has not been mild in Scotts Bluff County, but we have not had the woodpecker visitors in our back yard at Scottsbluff that the cold weather usually brings. A bird quite new to our experience in this locality put in an appearance during Christmas week of 1937. It is a Steller Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri* subsp.). It stayed closely in one small section of the town, and was quite friendly. During this same week a covey of about twenty Bob-whites (subsp.) was seen. Also, a Christmas bird census was made between 10:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on December 26, 1937, in Scotts Bluff County along the road from Scottsbluff to Lyman and to Helvas Canyon south of Gering, about twelve miles by auto and three on foot. The day was clear with a moderate south wind, and the temperature ranged from 28° to 46° F., with about two inches of snow on the ground. Fourteen species, including about 278 individuals, were listed, as follows: Common Mallard, 90; Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), 2; Marsh Hawk, 4; Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), 3; Ring-necked Common Pheasant, 5; Common Red-shafted Flicker, 2; Downy Woodpecker (subsp.), 1; Horned Lark (subsp.), 80; Northern Blue Jay, 3; American Magpie, 50; White-rumped Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.), 10; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 20; and Tree Sparrow (subsp.), 6.

On May 23, 1937, we saw a Western Great Horned Owl in the vicinity of Signal Butte, in the southwestern part of the county.—MR. and MRS. ROY J. WITSCHY, *Scottsbluff, Nebr.*

**A Dodge County Christmas Bird Census.**—I made my Christmas bird census between 8:00 A. M. and 2:30 P. M. on December 26, 1937, in Wild Court Park, MacLean's Island, Big Island, and the cemetery, in the vicinity of Fremont, Dodge County. The day was clear, with no wind, the ground was bare of snow, and the temperature ranged from 45° F. to 55° F. Twenty-four species, including 1,118 individuals, were listed, as follows: Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), 1; Nebraska Screech Owl, 2; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 10; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 11; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 8; Horned Lark (subsp.), 3; Eastern Crow, 275; Northern Blue Jay, 5; Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), 42; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Eastern Brown Creeper, 12; Eastern Robin, 150; Eastern Common Bluebird, 3; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Cedar Waxwing, 125; Western Meadowlark, 75; Bronzed Grackle, 2; Eastern Cardinal, 20 (12♂, 8♀); Northern Pine Brown Thrasher. Oct. 6. (Sept. 1-3, 11-13, 17-25, Oct. 1-3). Siskin, 4; American Goldfinch (subsp.), 25; Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, 1; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 250; and Tree Sparrow (subsp.), 75.—MRS. LILY RUEGG BUTTON, *Fremont, Nebr.*

**A Lincoln County Christmas Bird Census.**—A Christmas bird census was made by six members of the North Platte Bird Club between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on December 26, 1937, within an area of fifteen miles diameter near North Platte, Lincoln County. The day was clear with a light south wind, and the temperature ranged from 20° F. at the start to 35° F. at the return. The census was made by auto with side trips on foot, the observers working in pairs or singly. Thirty-three species, including 1,107 individuals, were listed, as follows: American

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Common Mallard, 46; Blue-winged Teal, 15; Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; American Buff-breasted Merganser, 21; Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk, 5; Marsh Hawk, 8; Desert (?) Sparrow Hawk, 2; Eastern (?) Bob-white, 18; American Barn Owl, 1; Nebraska Screech Owl, 1; Western (?) Great Horned Owl, 5; Northern Short-eared Owl, 2; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 4; Common Red-shafted Flicker, 4; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 4; Horned Lark (subsp.), 51; American Magpie, 194; Eastern Crow, 297; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Eastern Robin, 3; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Northern Shrike (subsp.), 1; European Starling, 2; Western Meadowlark, 15; Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.), 33; Eastern Cardinal, 1; American Goldfinch (subsp.), 1; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 50; Shufeldt Oregon Junco, 26; Pink-sided Junco, 55; and Tree Sparrow (subsp.), 223.—MR. and MRS. WILSON TOUT, MR. HARRY WEAKLY, MR. and MRS. CARL HOLLMAN, and MRS. CARL COLLISTER, *North Platte, Nebr.*

**The Whistling Swan in Logan County in January.**—On January 1, 1938, while Mr. E. W. Glandon and his son, Mr. Myron Lambert, and I, all of Stapleton, were making a bird census in the southern half of the county in a large marshy area along the South Loup River just north of Hoagland, we flushed a swan from among a flock of at least 600 Common Mallards. The swan circled around over the marshy tract, and we observed it in flight through our field glasses. When it alighted at a point about a quarter of a mile from us, in order to make our identification positive I carefully stalked it, and succeeded in approaching to within thirty feet of it. It was an adult in the completely pure white plumage, and the bill and feet were wholly black. While the Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) usually has a yellow spot in front of the eye, that marking sometimes is wanting in that species, and the size of the bird indicated the Whistling Swan rather than the Trumpeter Swan. The Whistling Swan is an addition to the Logan County bird list.—GLENN VIEHMEYER, *Stapleton, Nebr.*

**A Concentration of Wintering Eagles Along the North Platte River in Keith County.**—On January 25, 1938, while traveling on the Union Pacific Railroad along the North Platte River from North Platte to Scottsbluff, in a grove of trees located close to the railroad track just west of Sarben, Keith County, I counted twenty-two eagles. At least sixteen of these were adult Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, subsp. *alascanus* ?), and the other five or six were either that species in the immature plumage or American Golden Eagles, as it is impossible to distinguish between them from the train. Earlier in the month I had driven by auto through the same region, and at that time I saw several eagles of both species, including Bald Eagles in both the adult and immature plumages.—HARRY E. WEAKLY, *Experiment Substation, North Platte, Nebr.*

**Some 1937-38 Bird Observations at Red Cloud, Webster County.**—No doubt due to the unfavorable conditions in the summer of 1936, and the subsequent lack of winter food, there were very few birds to be seen in this locality throughout the winter of 1936-37. Birds were also pitifully few here during the winter of 1937-38. At our feeding station, the only regular visitors were a few Northern Downy and Eastern Hairy Woodpeckers, some Black-capped Chickadees, an occasional Eastern Brown Creeper, and a pair of Eastern Cardinals, while in 1936-37 (but not in 1937-38) Eastern Slate-colored Juncos were also continuously with us. What was most unusual, in 1937 Eastern Crows came right into town for food, and I saw them daily at my neighbor's back porches and close around the houses. It seems to me when crows are that badly starved the birds must be in very bad straits. During March of 1937 the Cardinals awakened us every morning, and in mid-March for the first time I heard the female Cardinal sing—not so musical as the male, but defi-

nately a song—while the Juncos sang their sweet songs from morning until night. The Cardinals built a nest on our premises that year, but unfortunately it was destroyed while I was attending the N. O. U. meeting on May 21 and 22. A second nesting resulted in their bringing up their two young successfully, and the four birds are most interesting and welcome in our yard. Bronzed Grackles destroyed the nest of our Brown Thrasher that was located near our house at 4:00 A. M., just two days before the eggs were due to hatch, in spite of all my vigilance. I have not seen a young Brown Thrasher for several years. Our first Northern Purple Martin arrived in 1937 on April 12. Later we had altogether four young male martins visiting our house for weeks, and one even carried in some nesting material, but no mates appeared for them, and they were still with us at the end of July, coming to the house nearly every day. On June 14, 1937, I watched a Chat all day long—a very late date for this locality. We had in our yard in the summer of 1937 seven or eight families of Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks, numerous Eastern Robins, Baltimore Orioles, Warbling Vireos, Catbirds and Kingbirds, and one family of Eastern Yellow Warblers, but no young grackles have been allowed to hatch on this place. In the winter of 1937-38 I had frequent "repeats" among the Chickadees, which apparently were all banded. The first ducks, Common Mallards and American Pintails, were present in considerable numbers at Pawnee Lake on January 25, 1938.—MRS. GEORGE W. TRINE, *Red Cloud, Nebr.*

**Unusual Scarcity of Winter Birds at Plattsmouth, Cass County.**—Birds have been very scarce here so far this winter (1937-38). For the first time since I began winter feeding, at least ten years ago, I have seen no Tufted Titmice or Eastern Brown Creepers. There are a few Black-capped Chickadees, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches and Cardinals, but they come only occasionally. Only the woodpeckers—the Eastern Hairy, Northern Downy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and the Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker—seem to be present in the usual numbers. A pair of Northern Blue Jays appears at intervals. All of the bird lovers in this community have noticed the scarcity of birds this winter.—MRS. PAUL T. HEINEMAN, *Plattsmouth, Nebr.*

**Some Bird Observations of the 1937-38 Winter Season Made at Omaha, Douglas County.**—The last Chimney Swift and Rough-winged Swallow were seen, respectively, on October 1 and 3 by Miss Mary Ellsworth, on which latter date she noted also the Common Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Teal and Northern American Coot. The first Harris Sparrow was noted by L. O. Horsky on October 5. Miss Ellsworth noted the first Savannah Sparrow (subsp.) and Vesper Sparrow (subsp.) on October 13, and the last Blue-winged Teal on October 18, on which latter date Mr. Horsky noted the first Northern Pine Siskin and Eastern Slate-colored Junco. On October 24, Miss Ellsworth noted the first migrant Common Mallard, Baldpate, and Lesser Scaup. On October 31, she noted the first American Pintail and the last Northern American Coot, and Mr. Horsky observed the first Eastern Brown Creeper.

The last Baldpate, Lesser Scaup, and Eastern Belted Kingfisher of the season were noted by Miss Ellsworth on November 1, on which date she saw a Wilson Snipe. November 6 was the date of last observation by Miss Ellsworth of the Common Pied-billed Grebe, American Pintail, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Western Meadowlark, and Red-winged Blackbird, and on this date she saw also a Song Sparrow (subsp.). Mr. William Marsh saw Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets in Elmwood Park on November 7 and 14, and on the latter date Miss Ellsworth noted the last Bronzed Grackle. Mr. Marsh saw a Screech Owl (subsp.), in the red phase, on his home grounds at 4157 Davenport on November 17, and in Elmwood Park on November 21, on which latter date he noted the last Harris Sparrow of the fall. Mr. Marsh saw the

Red-breasted Nuthatch in Elmwood Park on December 12, and Mesdames A. L. Patrick and George Woodward noted this bird in Fontenelle Forest on February 8. Mr. Marsh noted the Red Crossbill (subsp.) also in Elmwood Park on December 12, and Misses Bertha Calvert and Mary Ellsworth saw a flock of twenty-five of them in Forest Lawn Cemetery on February 13. On December 27, during the Christmas census, ten American Buff-breasted Mergansers and three Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted in Fontenelle Forest, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Red Crossbills (subsp.), and one Eastern Purple Finch in Elmwood Park, and Northern Pine Siskins in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Sparrow Hawks (subsp.) were repeatedly noted in Omaha during the winter; by Mr. Horsky at 60th and Franklin, by Mr. Frank Jodeit at 69th and Grover, by Miss Mary Towne at 1502 North 54th, and by Miss Ellsworth at Fontenelle Boulevard and Ames. Mr. Miles Greenleaf had Northern Blue Jay visitors at his home at 4806 Douglas, and Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted at different times at Fontenelle Reserve by Mr. Horsky, Miss Ellsworth, and Mesdames Patrick and Woodward. Mr. Greenleaf saw a Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), a large flock of Horned Larks (subsp.) and numerous Tree Sparrows in the Pappio Bottoms on February 3. Mesdames Patrick and Woodward noted a large flock of Eastern Robins and three Eastern Common Bluebirds in the Fontenelle Reserve on February 8, while on February 9 Mr. Greenleaf noted an Eastern Robin in his own yard. The Northern Killdeer, Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), American Herring Gull and Eastern Common Bluebird were all noted on March 11, while on March 13 many flocks of Canada Geese (subsp.), to a total of at least 1,500 birds were seen flying north up the Missouri River, and several flocks of Redwinged Blackbirds (subsp.) were noted.—OMAHA NATURE STUDY CLUB, BY L. O. HORSKY, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**Some 1937-38 Bird Notes from Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—In our back yard in 1937 the last Catbird was seen on September 16, the last Eastern Robin on September 18, the last Rose-breasted Grosbeak on September 19, the last Western Mourning Dove on September 23, and the last Western House Wren and Brown Thrasher on September 24, on which last-mentioned date the first Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen. The Tree Sparrow (subsp.) arrived October 6, the Eastern Brown Creeper October 7, the Harris Sparrow (in a neighbor's yard) on October 11, and the Eastern Slate-colored Junco on October 26. Great numbers of Franklin Gulls were reported by Mr. Charles E. Booth to be feeding on grasshoppers in a wheat field near the Veterans' Hospital on October 12.

Northern Pine Siskins were seen in our yard on February 4 and 16 and March 7, 14 (with American Goldfinches) and 22, 1938. Dean W. W. Burr reported seeing two Eastern Robins on the College of Agriculture campus on February 7, after which none were seen until February 27 and 28 and March 1, when Prof. Raymond Roberts saw them. Males were common by March 6 and females were common by March 14. A highly marked female Shufeldt Oregon Junco was seen on February 16, and Mrs. Dwight Thomas reported a flock of twelve Cedar Waxwings seen on the Wesleyan University campus on February 17. The Northern Killdeer was noted March 8 by Prof. Roberts, and on March 10 by us. Other arrivals were the Sparrow Hawk (subsp.) on March 14 (on which date the last Eastern Brown Creeper was seen), Cedar Waxwings on March 17 (Mrs. C. O. Bruce), and in our yard the Bronzed Grackle on March 20, the Dakota Song Sparrow on March 21, the Red-eyed Eastern Towhee on March 23 and the Western Mourning Dove on April 1 (one) and 2 (two). Mrs. Bruce saw Red Crossbills (subsp.) in Wyuka Cemetery on March 23 and the Eastern Chipping Sparrow on March 31. The last typical Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees were noted in our yard on March 31. Prof. Roberts noted the first Northern Purple Martin male scouts on April 2.—MYRON H. and JANE B. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

## THE MOURNING DOVE CASE

Bird lovers were considerably surprised and chagrined when the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, shortly after the effective date of Legislative Bill No. 312 of the last (fifty-second) session of the Nebraska Legislature, which act restored the Mourning Dove to the classification of a "game" bird in this state, but permitted no open season on it "except when such was ordered by the Commission", declared an open season on these birds, effective September 1, 1937, to extend to and including the following November 15, and permitting the birds to be shot over the entire state from 7:00 A. M. to sunset, with a bag and possession limit of ten birds.

The surprise was due to the belief that the Commission would realize in advance that majority public sentiment in Nebraska opposed shooting these proverbially gentle and familiar birds, common in every city yard and probably known to every member of every farm family in the state, and therefore regarded with affection by our citizenry in general, and would not exercise the power given it. Previous recent tests of Nebraska public sentiment on the matter of making a "game" bird of the Mourning Dove, and placing an open season upon it, had shown pretty conclusively the prevailing oppositional nature of that sentiment. The chagrin was because the season was opened as early as September 1, in spite of the fact that doves that raise a third brood continue their nesting activities through September, and the loss of the parents in such cases involves also the loss of the eggs or starvation of the young, and also because hunters so disposed could kill these unwary birds for seventy-six consecutive days, or until they had practically all migrated farther south, a season that seemed on its face unreasonably long, and in addition the daily bag and possession limits were equally or more generous than those accorded to such generally acknowledged "game" as ducks, pheasants and cottontail rabbits. For all of which this action of the Commission has been rather severely criticized, not only by bird lovers but by garden club members, farmers, many conservationists and others, both as individuals and as organized groups.

Of course, an open season on Mourning Doves is not a new thing in Nebraska, nor even a long open season or one involving the nesting season. At the turn of the century, when dove hunters were relatively few, Mourning Doves could be shot legally from the middle of April to the end of October, and there was no bag limit for residents of the state. In 1905 this unreasonably long open season was reduced to the month of July only, but that unfortunately came in the height of the nesting season. In 1907 the open season was extended from one month to ten weeks, but at the same time was set back to begin September 15 and end December 1. The season was closed entirely in 1909, but in 1911 a six weeks midsummer open season was re-established, running from July 15 to September 1, and continued on that basis for six years. In 1917 the season was closed on both the Mourning Dove and Upland Plover, and there was no legal shooting of doves in Nebraska for the following twelve years. Then, in 1929, when the Legislature was making very extensive revisions of the fish and game laws, a two weeks open season on doves, extending from September 1 to 15, was returned to the statutes of the state.

Public sentiment in Nebraska failed signally to endorse this act. During the open seasons in September of both 1929 and 1930, just as last fall, bird lovers were incensed by witnessing the legalized shooting of doves that had been reared in their yards and elsewhere around their homes. Especially was this true in the countryside immediately about the urban centers of the state. These people freely expressed their disapproval through all of the usual avenues of public protest. The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, at its thirty-first annual meeting on May 16, 1931, passed a resolution deploring the action of the 1929 Legislature in classifying the dove as a Nebraska "game" bird and opening the season upon

it for the first half of September, and petitioned that the forty-sixth session repeal this action. When that session convened, its members were the recipients of many opposing petitions and protests, from women's clubs, school children, agricultural groups, and individual citizens. Two bills (House Rolls 27 and 69) were introduced to abolish the open season on doves. The true sentiment of the majority of Nebraska citizens was very obvious, and on February 4, 1931, House Roll 27 was responsively passed by the House by a vote of 85 to 6, and was quickly approved by the Senate and the Governor. The people and their representatives had spoken, and for another six years, or until the above mentioned act of the last Legislature took place, the Mourning Dove was protected throughout the year by the Nebraska law.

As a species, the Mourning Dove occurs in every state of the Union. Our esteemed exchange, *Outdoor Nebraska* (xii, No. 4, p. 11), the quarterly magazine of the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, lists twenty-eight states that permit the shooting of doves, either throughout the state or in parts of them, and declares that these cover "practically the entire dove range". But in this statement it is mistaken. Vermont, which prohibits dove shooting, is included in the list, but since Virginia, which has permitted dove shooting on a partial or state-wide basis for many years, is omitted in the list, one may assume an inadvertent substitution. It is both interesting and significant that all of the territory that permits dove shooting, excepting only the four states of Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, and Minnesota, lies either within or south or west of the line of states composed of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Idaho; in brief, the "solid South" and the far western states. Except for the four Mississippi Valley states above mentioned, the entire northeastern and north-central United States prohibits dove shooting, this including all of New England, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. Nebraska, with the third largest state avifauna in the Union, and one of the oldest active state ornithological organizations in the nation, decidedly does not feel that it belongs in the company of the dove-shooting states in matters pertaining to bird protection, but rather with the majority of other northern states where public sentiment does not support the practice of dove shooting.

From the first North American Wildlife Conference, held at Washington early in 1936, sprang the General Wildlife Federation, the objectives of which were permanently to unify into a concerted movement the collective influence of all the conservation-minded people of this continent, with the purpose of securing adequate recognition of the needs of our wild creatures, and the legislative and financial support to care for those needs. The ideal of that fine conservationist leader, Mr. J. N. Darling, was and is that this movement should include not only sportsmen's organizations, but bird clubs, garden clubs, women's clubs, teachers' organizations, 4-H and other youth clubs, agricultural organizations, and conservation-minded people generally, acting as individuals. The Nebraska Wildlife Federation is intended to accomplish this for our own state. Much good work has been done, but uniform cooperation is being jeopardized by the inability of true bird lovers and others to follow some of the county wildlife councils in such matters as endorsing an open season on doves in Nebraska. It is the tendency on the part of individuals and groups of a certain type of sportsman impatiently to condemn the conservation viewpoints of non-shooters and persons primarily interested in our birds as living creatures as "maudlin sentimentalists" that may handicap the development of Mr. Darling's fine ideal of a broad cooperation of conservationists for their common objectives. Let us hope this may prove not to be true, and also that our Nebraska Commission may see the wisdom of reversing its 1937 action and announcing at an early date a complete and permanent closing of the open season on doves in Nebraska.

MYRON H. SWENK

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

The thirty-ninth annual meeting and thirty-sixth annual field day of the N. O. U. will be held at Superior, Nebraska, respectively on Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, 1938. The Garden Department of the Women's Club of Superior will be the hosts at this meeting. Corresponding Secretary Earl W. Glandon is arranging a very attractive program of papers and discussions for Friday, with the annual banquet that evening, followed later by a program open to the public. The field day will, as usual, be held on Saturday. This will be the second N. O. U. meeting to be held at Superior, where the very successful twenty-sixth annual meeting and twenty-third annual field day were held on May 8 and 9, 1925. Hotel headquarters will be at the Nebraskan, where registration and the banquet will be held. For details as to program, plans and hotel facilities, please refer to the letter of announcement of Secretary Glandon. Reserve these dates now, and definitely plan to attend this meeting.

Although the N. O. U. will not reach its fortieth birthday anniversary until on December 16, 1939, it will hold its fortieth annual meeting in May of next year. Since our first eight annual meetings were in the winter, the first annual field day was not held until May of 1903, and therefore these consistently run three less in number than the annual meetings. Our 1939 annual meeting should be the occasion of some unusual activities by our organization. Would it not be wise to appoint a special committee at Superior to assist the Secretary in planning for the 1939 meeting?

With the present issue of the *Nebraska Bird Review*, now established on a semi-annual basis, you will note several changes. Conspicuous among these is the stiff-papered sepia cover to our magazine, and outstanding on the front cover page is a new illustration of the Western Burrowing Owl, the N. O. U. "mascot bird," in characteristic pose. The pen and ink drawing for this splendid illustration was most generously donated to us by Dr. George Miksch Sutton, the well known ornithologist and distinguished author, who is equally well known as a painter of birds and probably has no living superior in that art. As Dr. Sutton has at different times expressed to your Editor, he retains a warm regard for Nebraska, having lived in the state and studied its birds during the early part of his ornithological career, and his providing us with a suitable new illustration for our cover is his concrete demonstration of that regard, which certainly is reciprocated by all of us. Thank you very much, Dr. Sutton.

The cover also designates the *Nebraska Bird Review* as "A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region" instead of "A Review of Nebraska Ornithology." Although it has been a constant provision in the Constitution of the N. O. U. for nearly a quarter of a century, and still remains in it, probably many of our members do not realize that the privileges of membership in our organization extend not only to residents of Nebraska, but also to residents of all of the states adjacent to Nebraska. At the fourteenth annual meeting of the N. O. U., which was held in Lincoln on May 15, 1914, the Constitution of the society was amended to include the residents of these "adjacent states" as eligible to N. O. U. membership. This was done because then none of the surrounding states had an active bird organization, and certain persons residing in them who were interested in birds desired membership in the N. O. U. Since that time, the bird students of Iowa have organized their own state society, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, but none of the other states adjacent to Nebraska seem to have done so. Perhaps we have been a little selfish all these years in not more generally welcoming the active bird students of Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Missouri, and Kansas into our organization, for our present membership list includes only one member in each of the three states first mentioned, and none in the two last-mentioned states. Quite probably others could affiliate with us, to the mutual benefit of the bird student in the neighboring state and our organization. Should we not put a committee at work to encourage this idea?



## ANNOUNCEMENT

With the close of 1937, the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union completed the fifth volume of its official organ, the *Nebraska Bird Review*, which started as a quarterly journal with the January, 1933, number. These five volumes total 692 pages and contain eighteen illustrative halftones and maps. Aside from the usual organization minutes, membership rolls and personalia, and the editorial discussions, these pages are devoted to a diversity of ornithological material, involving data not to be found elsewhere. Of special interest to the ornithologists of Nebraska and adjacent states are the General Notes (about 100 pp.), covering a great variety of topics, and a migration record (about 160 pp.) for the entire state, with a complete tabular summary of the dates of first arrival of each species in several representative localities for each year. Bird students of the Missouri Valley will also be interested in the three published parts of the "Brief Synopsis of the Birds of Nebraska", which together cover the loons, grebes and totipalmate birds, and in the published first five parts of "A History of Nebraska Ornithology", which deal, respectively, with fossil Nebraska birds, aboriginal Nebraska men and bird life, early Spanish and French explorations, and the ornithological results of the Lewis and Clark and Pike Expeditions of 1804-06 and the 1811 Missouri River trips of Bradbury, Nuttall and Brackenridge and the returning Astorians in 1812-13.

Much of the material in these five volumes is of more than local interest, as for example the monographic treatment of the present status of the Whooping Crane (19 pp.), two papers on the measurements and weights of the three races of Canada Goose found in Nebraska (22 pp.), a synopsis of the known information about the Carolina Paroquet in the Missouri Valley region (5 pp.), and for this region detailed studies of the distribution, migration and hybridism of the Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks (14 pp.), and of the distribution and migration of the races of Great Horned Owl (27 pp.), with shorter studies of the songs of the Pine Grosbeak and Western Meadowlark, the habits of the Bronzed Grackle and Purple Martin, trees and shrubs of value for bird food in the Nebraska sandhills, and other subjects. Each volume has an adequate separate index.

The publication policy of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union always has been that of a distribution of its surplus publications as widely as possible through their sale at a concession in price, rather than of holding any considerable supply in reserve. It is very interested in having complete files of the *Nebraska Bird Review* in the libraries of institutions and of individual bird students, particularly those located in the Middle West and especially in the Missouri Valley states. The edition of each number of the *Review* is but 250 to 300 copies, nearly 200 of which are mailed at once to members and subscribers. *The remaining set on hand are now offered for sale to libraries and interested ornithologists at \$5.00 postpaid for the five volumes*, which is \$1.75 less than the actual cost of these twenty numbers to the organization. *Less than fifty sets are still available*, and four numbers can be supplied only with complete sets. The five volumes when bound make a handy sized book.

Beginning with the year 1938, the *Nebraska Bird Review* will be issued semi-annually instead of quarterly. Proceedings will be abbreviated, the membership roll published less frequently, and personalia largely eliminated. The annual migration tables will be continued. More monographic articles will be published, and the General Notes will be expanded. It is hoped that the synopses of the birds of Nebraska and the history of Nebraska ornithology may be continued whenever space is available. These changes in policy it is hoped will make the *Review* of broader and more general interest. The subscription price will remain \$1.00 a year. Orders for sets of the first five volumes and subscriptions to the 1938 volume should be addressed to Myron H. Swenk, Editor-Custodian, N. O. U., 1410 North 37th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

7-1938

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VOLUME VI

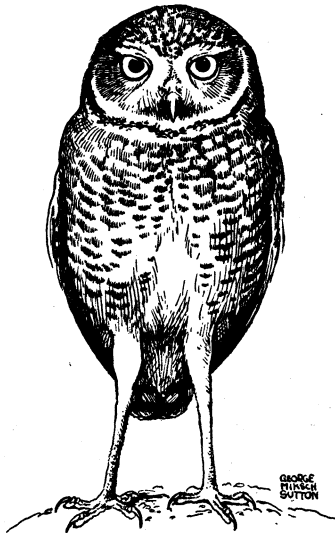
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NUMBER 2

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# The Nebraska Bird Review



*A Magazine of the Ornithology  
of the Nebraska Region*

Published by the

**Nebraska Ornithologists' Union**  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

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# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

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Edited by Myron H. Swenk, 1410 North Thirty-seventh Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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## C O N T E N T S

	<i>Page</i>
Is the Prairie Chicken Passing? By Glenn Viehmeyer.....	25
General Notes .....	29
N. O. U. Cooperative Bird Migration List for Spring of 1938..	36
Minutes of the Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting.....	42
Report on the Thirty-sixth Annual Field Day.....	47

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VOLUME VI

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## IS THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN PASSING?

By GLENN VIEHMEYER

It seems that another chapter is about to be added to the record of that destruction of American wildlife that has led to the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, the Heath Hen, and probably the Eskimo Curlew, and has reduced the number of Trumpeter Swans, Whooping Cranes, and California Condors to such a low point that it is very questionable if these species will be able to survive, even with the best protection that man can give them. For what is true of these species is also rapidly becoming true of the Greater Prairie Chicken, a species that a short fifty years ago was numbered by the millions over the prairies of the interior of North America.

At the dawn of the present century the sandhill region of Nebraska could still number its Greater Prairie Chickens by the hundreds of thousands of birds. It is safe to say that even a quarter of a century ago every valley of any size in the sandhill region had its booming ground; that is, an area where these grouse assembled during the mating season and the cocks went through their courting ritual. The site chosen for a booming ground as a rule is located upon a small knoll or other low elevation in a valley. Once a ground is established it is used by the same birds year after year. Each cock claims an area a few yards square on the ground where he does all of his strutting and booming. He defends this against all comers and if another cock happens to alight upon what he considers his territory, a fight ensues. There is no make-believe about these fights. Feathers fly as the birds buffet each other with beak, wings, and feet, sometimes springing some feet into the air, scratching, flapping and pecking as they drop back to earth.

I shall describe an incident that illustrates how strong is this urge of the cock to defend what he considers his claim. Near my home there has been one of these booming grounds for as long as I can remember. A road crosses the ground. In 1924 a school bus used this road night and morning. One cock had located his parade ground in the center of this road. When the bus passed along, this bird would crouch down in the grass at the side of the road, and as soon as the bus had passed would spring out of concealment and run down the road after the bus for some little distance, as if he were driving it off his chosen territory. He would stand and watch the bus out of sight and then return to his interrupted booming. This performance was repeated daily as long as the mating season lasted.

In booming, the cock first executes a little dance in one spot, his feet making a distinct patter on the ground. During this dance he inflates with air the two large orange sacs, one on either side of his neck. At the end of the dance he raises and spreads his tail and drops his wings much in the manner of a strutting turkey gobbler. His two long tufts of feathers on the neck near the head are erected, giving him the appearance of being horned. He thrusts this horned-like head and neck, with the inflated air sacs, straight out in front of him, runs a few steps

forward, and then expels the air from the sacs with a loud booming sound. As children, we used to say that the Prairie Chicken boomed "*Durned old f-o-o-l.*" I can remember when the booming grounds near my home were used by hundreds of birds. This spring (1938) I saw one lone cock, a bachelor to all appearances, on the grounds.

Today Prairie Chickens have disappeared over the greater part of their former range. In Nebraska the Greater Prairie Chicken is now confined mostly to the sandhill region and even there it has been reduced to the point where it can be numbered by dozens in areas that only a few years ago could have boasted of thousands of birds. Personally I feel that the species has been reduced to the absolute minimum for survival. In a good many parts of western Nebraska the number has dropped so low that only the most favorable future circumstances can save the species from extirpation in these areas. This picture, dark as it is, is not a matter of guesswork. It is substantiated by actual surveys made over the Prairie Chicken country.

From July 25 to August 8, 1937, Mr. V. C. Conover, Field Supervisor of the Nebraska Game, Forestation, and Parks Commission, with the officers working under him, made a survey of the status of the Prairie Chicken in the Nebraska sandhills. They worked in three cars, combing the entire area and driving a total distance of 6,117 miles. They saw a total of twenty-six birds. They also questioned the ranchers in the area as to the number of coveys of birds. The results of these inquiries seemed to indicate that there were fewer coveys and that these coveys numbered fewer birds than in former years. The early dates of the survey patrol accounts in part for the very limited number of birds seen by the conservation officers. To quote Mr. Conover: "The dates of the patrol were placed early—in fact too early in the summer to see many birds ourselves, and the object of this was mainly to get voices from the ranchers. During haying season, which was the case during this patrol, the ranchers are all in the field and have a better opportunity to see the young birds than we would have from a car, not knowing the exact locations of the coveys, and these dates were chosen for that reason."

From August 15 to the end of the year 1937, I drove over 6,000 miles through western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. Most of this travel was over little-used trails, through the heart of the Prairie Chicken country. This travel by car was supplemented by numerous side trips on foot in the more inaccessible areas along streams, where a car could not be used. During this travel I kept a rather accurate record of the birds seen. This number was in the neighborhood of 400 birds. One large flock estimated at 125 birds was seen at the head of the South Loup River, and another of forty-two birds was seen west of Dunning, Nebraska, along the Dismal River. These two flocks were the only large ones seen. The rest of the birds were in groups of from three to twenty-five. It is suspected that in some cases birds might have been counted twice.

There are a number of causes that can be blamed for this situation. First, during the nineteenth century the market hunter entered the picture and the birds were slaughtered by the thousands for the eastern markets. While this was serious, this slaughter was more or less of a local thing, confined to the areas first settled and accessible to shipping facilities. At the time the legal hunting for the market ended there were still tremendous numbers of birds left in the more remote areas. Second, what was perhaps the most serious blow to the species in the sandhill region followed the passage of the Kinkaid Land Act (April 28, 1904). For a period following the passage of this act almost every section of land in this area was occupied by a family of "Homesteaders".

These people were not conservationists, and they had a 365-day open game season, excepting in leap years when they had one day more. It was inevitable that this year-around shooting over the entire breeding range should reduce the species from hundreds of thousands to but a small fraction of that number. Third, the settlement of the region resulted in an increased number of livestock that by overgrazing destroyed a large part of the natural covert and nesting sites of the birds. This overgrazing has slowly been increasing since the sandhill region was first settled. The recent drouth years brought an influx of livestock from adjacent drouth-stricken areas. This has resulted in the entire region being more or less overgrazed. Few or no desirable nesting areas are left at the present time. A series of years of normal precipitation would do much to restore covert and nesting sites. But if the present drouth period lasts for a few more seasons it will be too late to save the Prairie Chicken.

I feel that this destruction of nesting sites by overgrazing is by far the most serious menace that the Prairie Chicken faces at the present time, and that it is the primary reason that the number of birds has fallen to its present low. In 1934 we had on our place a flock of seventy-four birds that I fed through the winter. Last winter this flock numbered fifteen birds. In 1934 the species was increasing in our area. Today it has reached the lowest point in history. The primary cause for this sudden reduction in numbers is, I believe, overgrazing. I do not think that a lack of food has had any important bearing on the case. The Ring-necked Common Pheasant has been increasing, in spite of an open season each year, while during the same period the Greater Prairie Chicken, with year-around protection under the law, has decreased in numbers. This decrease in numbers of Prairie Chickens has coincided with the increased number of livestock. The Pheasant, hardy and adapted through many generations of association with man and agriculture, has learned how to survive conditions such as those now existing in Nebraska. If grassland is not available for its nesting it will nest in fence-rows, weed patches, cultivated fields, and a thousand and one other places that no Prairie Chicken would regard as being suitable for a nesting site. The Prairie Chicken is strictly a bird of the open grassland, and has not learned to seek other places to nest when its natural nesting sites have been destroyed by overgrazing, as they are at the present time.

The presence of a disease (ulcerative enteritis) of the intestinal tract of the Prairie Chicken, resembling the coccidiosis of domestic fowls, also at times appears in the region. A post mortem of such diseased birds shows numerous lesions and ulcerations in the digestive tract. Apparently this disease is highly fatal, and it is possible that at times it becomes epidemic and takes large numbers of birds.

In addition to the primary causes already mentioned, there are several minor factors that have a bearing on the case. While these minor causes would be negligible if the Prairie Chickens were present in anything like their former numbers, I feel that they do have a rather important bearing on the limited number of birds we have left. During the past twenty-five years the Crow has become established as a common summer resident and breeder in the Nebraska sandhill region. Prior to that time, the Crow had appeared there only as a rather uncommon migrant. I can remember when a Crow was a rare enough bird to cause much excitement when it appeared. At the present time the Crow breeds over much of the sandhill region, nesting in the few remaining trees around the now abandoned Kinkaid homesteads. The advent of this bird as a breeder in the nesting areas of the Prairie Chicken is proving serious for the latter. Nesting as the Prairie Chicken does in open grass-

land, with the majority of the nests unconcealed from above, the eggs fall an easy prey to the sharp-eyed Crow. Also it is probable that the Crow takes young grouse at every opportunity. The Duck Hawk also becomes a serious menace when the number of Prairie Chickens becomes so limited. I have had several years of experience at Stapleton with this hawk as an enemy of the Prairie Chicken. One has been a winter resident at our farm north of town for several years, and I have studied its preying on the Prairie Chickens. I have seen carcasses of Prairie Chickens scattered over the entire valley in which we live. I have seen it pursuing and capturing Prairie Chickens almost daily, until the few survivors of the flock were forced to seek a new range. If there were a large number of Prairie Chickens in a given area, one Duck Hawk more or less would be of very little importance; but where the Prairie Chickens can be numbered only by the dozen, there is no question in my mind but that one Duck Hawk can wipe out an entire flock in a single winter. In a paper prepared for presentation to the North Platte Bird Club, Mr. V. C. Conover lists coyotes, skunks (especially the Plains Spotted Skunk which in recent years has extensively invaded and flourished in the Nebraska sandhills), weasels, crows and the Cooper and Sharp-shinned Hawks and Goshawk as the principal predatory enemies of the Greater Prairie Chicken. He believes that the Crow does less damage than it is commonly blamed for and mentions the Buffy Deer Mouse and Prairie Jumping Mouse as important competitors for the legumes that form the natural winter food of the grouse.

At best the picture is a dark one. If the Prairie Chicken is to be saved, it will require the best efforts of all agencies, both private and public. I feel that there should be the closest cooperation between private and public agencies in this work. The work of the individual is somewhat limited because the natural breeding range of the species is so widespread that no individual or limited group of people can hope to control a sufficient area to have much effect. The grazing lands are in the hands of large cattle interests that are not greatly interested in conservation work. However, the individual can do real work in the controlling of illegal shooting, necessary control of predators, and in educational work regarding the maintenance of nesting areas.

I feel that the greatest possibility of successfully preserving the species lies in the Federal Game Refuges that have been established in the Greater Prairie Chicken breeding area. If grazing is held at a minimum on these Federal Refuges, and a good cover of vegetation is maintained, permanent breeding areas could be established that would be of great value in saving the species. If grazing is not rigidly controlled and good covert conditions maintained, the refuges are failing to function as they should. In talking with Walter Bennett, until recently manager of the Crescent Lake Game Refuge, I was told that the Prairie Chickens left that Refuge during the winter and returned the next spring. If this is the case, it seems to me that there is something wrong. I believe that there is one major cause of the fall migration of the species, and that is a failing food supply. If an adequate supply of food is maintained at these refuges, I believe that the Prairie Chickens will become permanent rather than summer residents. The easiest and cheapest method of furnishing an abundant food supply would be to plant and cultivate a small acreage of grain crops, such as corn, grain sorghums and small grains. This could be accomplished by one man with a small amount of equipment and would result in a supply of feed that would serve to hold the birds on the refuge the year around, where they could be protected. A program that makes the Federal Refuge a permanent rather than a summer home for the Prairie Chicken offers the best, if not the only, hope of saving the species.

*Stapleton, Nebr.*



## GENERAL NOTES

**The Northern Pine Siskin Nesting in Boone County.**—For a number of years at different times I have noted the Northern Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus pinus*) about my home here. This spring these birds were noted about the place for some weeks during March and April. Then on April 18, 1938, I discovered that a pair was building a nest in the very top of a very compact ten-foot blue spruce tree. They started the base of a first nest, composed exclusively of fine fibrous roots, and when this blew down started upon the nest now reported as under construction. A few days before noting the construction of the nest, I carried on quite a conversation with the siskins, which, in addition to their usual goldfinch-like notes, have soft twittering whistled calls. I know from the account of the nesting of this species in Nebraska given by Prof. M. H. Swenk in 1929 (*Wilson Bulletin*, xli, pp. 77-92), in which twenty different nesting records for the state are given, and from reports of the findings of subsequent nests, as the one found in Elmwood Park in Omaha on April 23, 1933, by the Omaha Nature Study Club (*antea*, i, pp. 70 and 79), that the breeding of this species in Nebraska is no novelty, but I believe it is the first time that it has been observed nesting in this section of the state. The Western House Wren, Brown Thrasher and Red-eyed Eastern Towhee all arrived at St. Edward on April 25, 1938.—DANA ANDERSON, *St. Edward, Nebr.*

**The Northern Pine Siskin Nesting in Adams County.**—Northern Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus pinus*) put in an appearance in this vicinity early in January. Through the late winter and early spring following they increased in numbers. On May 1, 1938, I discovered a nest of this bird about two blocks from my home in Hastings. It was placed in a spruce tree only four feet up, so low that one had to stoop to see within it. There was one egg in the nest when it was discovered, and three days later (on May 4) the nest contained four eggs. When I visited the nest on May 15 I found three young just out of the shells and one egg which hatched shortly afterward. After hatching had taken place the nest with the young was watched with interest for several days by members of the Brooking Bird Club. On May 25, Mrs. Charles Rantz visited the nest at noon and found the nearly fledged young in the nest, but at six o'clock on the same day, when she took her two children to see the siskins, the nest and young were completely missing without even a trace of nesting material left on the ground.—MISS NELLE ROWE, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**Nesting of the Northern Pine Siskin in Webster County.**—On May 26, 1938, I found a brood of young Northern Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus pinus*), still downy-headed, being fed by their parents in my back yard. Up to the present time (June 5) they have been fed regularly every day by the parents, and must have been hatched out somewhere close by.—MRS. GEORGE W. TRINE, *Red Cloud, Nebr.*

**The 1938 Bird List at Fairbury, Jefferson County.**—In addition to the 107 species listed with definite dates in the spring migration table for 1938, published elsewhere in this issue of the *Review*, during the first week in January we noted the Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), Eastern Cardinal, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow (subsp.), and Harris Sparrow on January 1, and the Western Mourning Dove, Horned Lark (subsp.) and Tufted Titmouse on January 3. The Nebraska Screech Owl was noted on March 27, the Eastern Bob-white on April 16, and the Northern Barred Owl, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, and American Goldfinch (subsp.) on May 10. With these sixteen species added, 123 species were observed by us at Fairbury in 1938 up

to July 20, as compared with 147 species identified in 1937 up to the close of June. Among the most unusual of the birds noted in 1938 were the Eastern Carolina Wren and the Bohemian Waxwing. This year, as previously, a pair of Eastern Lark Sparrows nested in the juniper near the Callaway house. The nest of a pair of Eastern Mockingbirds located in a vine climbing one of the buildings near by was visited by several N. O. U. members when returning from the annual meeting at Superior, on May 14.—MISSSES SUSIE and AGNESS CALLAWAY, MRS. CHARLES RICHARDSON and MISS BERTHA HOLLY, *Fairbury, Nebr.*

**Some Bird Notes from Lincoln, Lancaster County.**—Bronzed Grackles were noted about my home on January 13 and February 28, 1938, these apparently representing wintering birds. I saw a Long-eared Owl on April 11, 1938, and in the country near Lincoln noted a Tufted Titmouse on May 29, 1938.—MISS LOUISA WILSON, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Miscellaneous Bird Notes from Southeastern Nebraska.**—I observed a wintering Sparrow Hawk (subsp.) at Lincoln on January 14, 1938. Dr. G. E. Hudson reported seeing the European Starling on March 12. The first Eastern Slate-colored Junco of the spring northward movement was noted by Mrs. M. H. Swenk on March 30, and Dr. Hudson noted them on April 12 and 30, the latter being the latest date for the season. Cuckoos have been unusually numerous around Lincoln the present spring and summer, and the same thing seems to obtain generally in southeastern Nebraska. Dr. Hudson found a nest of the Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo containing two eggs at Weeping Water, Cass County, on May 21, and noted the first Black-billed Cuckoo of the season at Plattsmouth, Cass County, on May 27. I saw and heard numbers of both species in Richardson County on June 6, and found the Black-billed especially common along the osage orange hedgerows in that county on the date mentioned.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Recent Bird Observations at Red Cloud, Webster County.**—Among my more interesting bird observations, made during the winter of 1937-38 and the spring and summer of 1938, the following may be mentioned. A Northern Shrike (subsp.) was seen on November 25, 1937. Our Black-capped Chickadees, practically all of which were banded and frequently "repeated" during the winter of 1937-38 (*antea*, vi, p. 21) were observed mating on March 26, 1938. On March 27, a Nebraska Screech Owl was seen in the maple tree by my kitchen window, where the Northern Downy Woodpeckers, Eastern Robins, English House Sparrows, and Eastern Cardinals were making life miserable for it. A Florida Gallinule was seen on April 3. The Red Crossbills that remained in this vicinity through the winter of 1937-38 (*antea*, vi, p. 17) remained until April 4, on which date they were noted for the last time. Saskatchewan Horned Larks were seen on April 10. The first 1938 note for the European Starling was made on April 12, while a fair sized flock of them was seen at Pawnee Lake on May 1. The first Northern Purple Martin was seen on April 18. Others subsequently appeared, and by summer there were three birds—one old male and two young ones—remaining in the vicinity and coming to our house every day or so, but being driven away by the Arkansas Kingbirds, which I wish were not so bumptious at times. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen on April 19, a Western Henslow Sparrow on May 9, and an Eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on May 18. Both forms of Chat occurred here this spring. On May 22, I found one in the road that had just been killed by a car, as its body was still warm and limp. A careful check-up showed that this bird was the eastern form, the Yellow-breasted Chat, it agreeing with that form in measurements and color. But two days later, on May 24, I saw what I without hesitation identified as a Long-tailed Chat in our yard. It came up on the door step a few feet away, and I had a splendid opportunity for observing its coloration, which was that of the western form. So I know now that we have both subspecies of Chat

occurring here as migrants. A Veery (subsp.) was noted on May 24 and, surprisingly enough, Bohemian Waxwings on May 26.

Not for many years have we had so many birds nesting in our yard as we have this spring (1938). Every tree seems to have several nests, and the shrubs and vines are also tenanted. These nesting birds include the Northern Bell Vireo—which hides its nest in foliage so dense that it is like looking for a “needle in a haystack” to locate it—and at least two pairs of Eastern Yellow Warblers. Other nesting species include the Western Mourning Dove, both Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Eastern Warbling Vireo, and Baltimore Oriole. Out of four nestings of the Eastern Robin in our yard, the Bronzed Grackles destroyed two, while two successfully survived. They also destroyed several dove nests and a thrasher's nest, that I know about, in my yard this spring. The Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks had week-old young in their nest in the apple tree on June 2, while on the same day a Northern Crested Flycatcher tried to take possession of a martin house, apparently with designs on it for a home.—MRS. GEORGE W. TRINE, *Red Cloud, Nebr.*

**Occurrence of the Bewick Wren and Other Birds in the Hastings Vicinity in the Spring of 1938.**—The 1938 spring migration in this vicinity was characterized by an unusual scarcity of waterfowl, shore birds and warblers. On the other hand, Cedar Waxwings were very numerous, and, subsequent to the first observation of them by Mrs. E. R. Maunders on March 9, flocks of seventy-five to 100 were present for several weeks in the different city parks. Two rather unusual migrants seen here were the Mountain Bluebird, noted by Mrs. A. E. Olsen on March 25, and the Townsend Solitaire, noted by Mesdames A. M. Brooking, J. D. Fuller, A. M. Jones, and A. E. Olsen on March 30.

On April 21, 1938, Mrs. Olsen noted a pair of wrens of a kind new to her. They perched on high places, such as in trees and on the ridge of a barn, where they indulged in nervous bobbing or dipping movements, as though their knees suddenly gave away. The next morning, Mrs. A. M. Jones and I accompanied Mrs. Olsen to the place where she had seen the wrens, and were able to identify them as Bewick Wrens (*Thryomanes bewicki* subsp.). This species had not been recorded for Hastings since Mrs. A. M. Jones and I last saw it here on April 24, 1935 (*antea*, iii, pp. 94 and 110). Previously it was seen here by Miss Margaret Diemer on May 5, 1934 (*antea*, ii, pp. 72 and 86); by Mrs. A. A. Adams on April 6, 1933, and subsequently by others (*antea*, i, pp. 72, 77, 101, and 102); and by Mrs. A. H. Staley and Miss Diemer on April 16, 1931, and on numerous previous occasions during the winter of 1930-31 by different observers between December 30, 1930, and March 22, 1931 (*antea*, i, p. 101).

Mrs. A. M. Jones and I noted a Lazuli Bunting on May 22, and on May 25 we found a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers nesting in a hole in a tree along the Little Blue River south of Hastings. This is the first nesting record of this species for the Hastings vicinity of which we know. The pair was seen again by Mr. and Mrs. Brooking on June 4. The Brookings also noted an Eastern Great Horned Owl along the Blue River on June 4. The Eastern Yellow-billed and the Black-billed Cuckoos are abundant here this season, both in the woods and in all parts of town, and their calls could be heard nearly anywhere during the last week in May and the first week in June. I have never seen or heard so many cuckoos here before as this spring. Early in June there were still a few boarders at my kitchen window shelf, including the Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Robin, Brown Thrasher, Baltimore Oriole (who always sings as he alights), and Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak.

Among the non-migratory birds noted at Hastings during the spring may be mentioned the White-breasted Nuthatch on March 13 (Miss M. Caryle Sylla), the Saskatchewan Horned Lark on April 23 (Mr. and Mrs. Brooking), the Nebraska Screech Owl, seen by myself on May 17, and the Bob-white on May 24 (Mrs. A. M. Jones).—MRS. A. H. JONES, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**A Wave of Migrating Lazuli Buntings at Hastings, Adams County.**—On May 19, 1938, I observed two male Lazuli Buntings (*Passerina amoena*) in a park in the northwest part of Hastings. Five days later (on May 24) at the same place in company with Mesdames J. D. Fuller, A. H. Jones, and A. M. Jones, I saw six or eight of these birds, including both males and females. Later on the same day Mrs. A. E. Olsen saw one at the same place.—MRS. A. H. STALEY, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**Bird Notes of an Early June Trip Through Southeastern Nebraska.**—On a field trip taken on June 5 and 6, 1938, to study insect conditions in southeastern Nebraska, covering about 300 miles in Lancaster, Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson, Pawnee, and Gage Counties, a number of interesting bird observations incidentally were made. One of the outstanding things observed was the greatly increased abundance everywhere of the Dickcissel in the spring of 1938, as compared to the last three or four springs immediately preceding. Along the valley of the Great Nemaha River, between Rulo and Humboldt in Richardson County, large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds (subsp.) and Eastern Meadowlarks were both heard and seen on the lowlands, while from the woodlands the calls of the Eastern Wood Peewee and Eastern Warbling Vireo were unusually frequent, and pairs of Northern Turkey Vultures were seen soaring overhead. The Eastern American Goldfinch was also very common. In Richardson County, flocks of as high as forty European Starlings were noted, and in a sumac thicket along the road just east of Table Rock, Pawnee County, a fine pair of Western Blue Grosbeaks was encountered and observed for some time. In the orchard region of eastern Nemaha County the song of the Eastern Field Sparrow was constantly heard. On a bit of upland territory, between Pawnee City and Wymore in Pawnee and southern Gage Counties, the Saskatchewan Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, and Eastern Lark Sparrow were the dominant species. Both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles seemed unusually numerous along the roadsides, and pairs of the Eastern Yellow Warbler seemed to inhabit every thicket. An impressive observation was the commonness of the Arkansas Kingbird, both along the country roadsides and in the towns, over the entire area traversed, including localities as far to the southeast as Auburn, Falls City and Pawnee City, when thirty years ago this species was practically unknown over this part of the state.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Paired Northern Ruddy Ducks Summering in Logan County.**—On June 17, 1938, I observed two pairs of Northern Ruddy Ducks (*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*) in a marshy pond near Highway 16A, three miles west of Stapleton, Logan County. The date, location, and behavior of the birds seemed to me to indicate a great probability of their breeding in that vicinity this season.—DEAN E. ECKHOFF, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Notes on Some June Birds in Scotts Bluff County.**—While on a survey trip in Scotts Bluff and Banner Counties on June 22, 1938, I was pleased to note an increased commonness of Bob-whites (subsp.) in the North Platte Valley region of Scotts Bluff County. The birds were heard calling frequently, and several of them were seen crossing the road. In an alfalfa field just east of the city of Scottsbluff I found a Bob-white's nest that had contained fourteen eggs, but that had been run over and destroyed by a truck. Western Burrowing Owls were still common west of Scottsbluff, especially between Scottsbluff and Mitchell. On the same day along

Pumpkin Creek north of Harrisburg, Banner County, Western Blue Grosbeaks were observed.—L. M. GATES, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**The Cinnamon Teal Summering in Clay County.**—On June 30, 1938, I saw a pair of Cinnamon Teals (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) sitting on a pond near a fence and close to the road, located about six miles east and three miles south of Clay Center, Clay County, Nebraska. The pond where these birds were noted covered about ten acres. I stopped my automobile and backed up to observe them further. When about thirty or forty feet away they took wing and flew to a marshy pond about a mile and a half to the south, not rising more than ten feet above the ground in making this flight. The male was identified beyond any possible question, but the female is assumed to have been a Cinnamon Teal because of her being in company with the undoubted Cinnamon Teal male. I question that this pair was breeding in the vicinity, in spite of the date, though such may have been the case.—DEAN E. ECKHOFF, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**Two Unusual Bird Records for the Fairbury, Jefferson County, Vicinity.**—On June 6, 1938, as we were eating breakfast on our back screen porch, a familiar note greeted our ears that caused us to make an immediate investigation. We found a Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) coming down a bare limb of the near-by hackberry tree. After finishing the hackberry it flew to an orchard. There can be no question about the identification, in spite of the unseasonable date. We now remember that one year we had a Harris Sparrow about for several days during June, so we know that the unusual in timing does occasionally happen with our birds.

On July 20, 1938, Mrs. Charles Richardson telephoned us that a large white bird had just flown from the pond near her back porch in the direction of the pond in the pasture east of our house. We hurried to our pond and found an American White Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) there, fishing for frogs. Subsequently it was seen at the sand pit lake daily for several days, and on the evening of July 24 we studied it there at close range.—MISSES SUSIE and AGNESS CALLAWAY, *Fairbury, Nebr.*

**Miscellaneous Bird Notes from the Logan and Lincoln County Region.**—The specimen of Screech Owl that a neighbor brought to Mrs. Glandon after it had been killed by striking his automobile near Stapleton, Logan County, on February 23, 1937, and that shortly thereafter was identified by Professor M. H. Swenk as best referable to the Rocky Mountain Screech Owl (*Otus asio maxwelliae*) (*antea*, v, p. 30), has since been re-examined by him and referred to the subsequently described Nebraska Screech Owl (*Otus asio swenki*). It is an unusually large and pale male specimen of this subspecies. On November 9, 1937, at the North Platte Substation, in Lincoln County, just after sunset a small owl was observed and studied in a tree in front of the Experiment Station office by Mr. Harry E. Weakly, Mr. Glenn R. Viehmeyer, and Mr. Glandon, and finally in order to make certain identification, it was collected by Mr. Weakly and forwarded by Mr. Wilson Tout to Professor Swenk, who pronounced it a typical female Nebraska Screech Owl. A second male specimen of this subspecies from near Stapleton was found on December 16, 1937, with a broken leg in the school yard by a pupil who brought it to Mr. Glandon and likewise forwarded to Professor Swenk, who made the subspecific identification.

A Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk was shot by Mr. Glandon near Stapleton on November 27, 1937, and forwarded to Lincoln, where it was preserved in the collection of the Department of Zoology of the University. Mr. Glandon also shot a Richardson Pigeon Hawk on December 15, 1937.

Of four Horned Larks secured on February 15, 1938, at Stapleton, three proved to be male Hoyt Horned Larks, while one was a female and best

referable to the Saskatchewan Horned Lark. On February 21, 1938, Mr. Glenn Viehmeyer saw three Eastern Snow Buntings one mile north of Stapleton, at the edge of the sandhills, and these were still present on the following day.

Among the hawks wintering very commonly in 1937-38 in the Stapleton vicinity may be mentioned the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk, American Rough-legged Hawk, American Golden Eagle, and Marsh Hawk. The Prairie Falcon wintered, but was not common, and the Western Great Horned Owl, which is a common resident in the region, was present through the winter. During the early summer of 1938 Mr. Glandon and Mr. Glenn Viehmeyer located five nests of the Swainson Hawk, all within a radius of five miles. Almost every clump of trees in the sandhills seems to contain a nest either in use or apparently used this year (1938) or last year. We conclude that this hawk is a common nester in this region, as well as a "common winter resident", as previously listed (*antea*, iii, p. 29).

In our original list of the birds of the Logan County region, we recorded the Common Pied-billed Grebe simply as a "common summer resident" (*antea*, ii, p. 31) because we had no actual nesting records. On June 20, 1937, Mr. Wilson Tout found a nest of this grebe, containing eggs, at Ambler's Lake, just west of Stapleton. In the same list (p. 34) we recorded the Eastern Yellow Warbler as "Very common. May nest here." On July 4, 1937, Mr. Myron Lambert found a nest of this warbler in a plum thicket. Mr. Glandon observed the bird leave the nest, at close range. The Western Meadowlark and the Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.), which generally winter to the south of this latitude, in the winter of 1937-38 remained in the Stapleton vicinity in considerable numbers. The Northern Pine Siskin and the Lapland Longspur (subsp.) also wintered around Stapleton in 1937-38. Mr. Glandon noted a White-breasted Nuthatch (subsp.) on April 8, 1938, and Mrs. Glandon saw a Bob-white (subsp.) on June 14, 1938, both near Stapleton.—MR. and MRS. EARL W. GLANDON, *Stapleton, Nebr.*

**Some Unusual 1938 Bird Occurrences Near North Platte, Lincoln County.**—A number of unusual bird observations were made at North Platte during the first half of 1938. Mr. Weakly noted the Crow (subsp.) on January 2, the (Hoyt ?) Horned Lark on January 3, the Eastern Robin on January 4, the Long-eared Owl on January 9, and the Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker on January 21. The Hairy Woodpecker (subsp.) was noted on February 1, and the Downy Woodpecker (subsp.) on February 14 by Mr. Weakly, who also noted the Greater Canada Goose on February 16. The Lesser Canada Goose was not noted until April 3, by Mr. Tout. Mr. Weakly noted Robins on February 18 that he thought might be the western subspecies (*propinqua*). He noted the Sandhill Brown Crane on February 22, but the first Little Brown Crane was not seen by him until April 20. Mr. Weakly noted the Mountain Bluebird on March 12, the Gray-headed Junco on March 29, and the Eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on April 8. Mr. Tout saw the Northern Blue Jay as early as March 19.

Unusual bird occurrences during the month of May included the Bohemian Waxwing on the 7th, the Eastern Cardinal on the 9th, and the Willow Thrush and Pine Grosbeak on the 16th, all noted by Mr. Weakly. Mr. Tout saw a Scarlet Tanager on May 18. Two unusual occurrences recorded by Mr. Weakly were the (Brewster ?) Snowy Egret on the 21st and the Bewick Wren (subsp.) on the 24th. Mrs. Collister noted the Red-breasted Nuthatch on May 29, and Mr. Tout the Horned Grebe on June 3.—MRS. CARL COLLISTER and MESSRS. WILSON TOUT and HARRY E. WEAKLY, *North Platte, Nebr.*

**Summering of the Golden-crowned Kinglet at North Platte and Other Bird Notes.**—During June and the first half of July of 1938, Mrs. Weakly

kept under observation here at the Experiment Station grounds a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets (subsp.). She saw them nearly every day, and I saw them frequently. The presence of a pair of this species, which usually nests only in the more northern or elevated parts of the United States, right through its normal breeding season was unusual enough, but in addition there was evidence that the birds were nesting here. They frequented a group of spruce trees, and several times were seen to be carrying what appeared to be nesting material. However, we were not able actually to find the nest, if there really was one.

There has been a very noticeable scarcity of some species of birds here this summer (1938). This especially was true of the Western Mourning Dove, Western Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, nearly all of our breeding warblers, Orchard Oriole, Bullock Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak and Western Blue Grosbeak. On the other hand, the Red-headed Woodpeckers, both the Eastern Common and Arkansas Kingbirds, the Eastern Robins and Lark Buntings seemed to show a decided increase this year here at the Station. The Eastern Robins flocked into the fields every morning in numbers to feed on grasshoppers, which is quite unusual. The Northern Blue Jay also did this to some extent. The Northern Purple Martin is definitely increasing here. There were several martin houses about the city that were occupied this season. The Western Grasshopper Sparrows apparently were entirely gone by August 10. At the same time, it seems to me that many birds are arriving here from the north very early this season. A Red-breasted Nuthatch has been present about the Station grounds since about August 9. The Bobolink in its fall plumage has been coming through in numbers since about August 10, and I observed a single Harris Sparrow on the unusually early date of August 15.—HARRY E. WEAKLY, *Experiment Substation, North Platte, Nebr.*

**Birds of a Two-Acre Lot in Omaha.**—I live on two acres located at 9730 Florence Heights Boulevard, and have been interested in listing the birds that I have seen on my premises and in the air overhead. Frequently hawks are noted soaring high in the air, but I have not determined the species. On just one occasion a lone Eastern Bob-white visited me. Western Mourning Doves are common. The Eastern Whip-poor-will is frequently heard in the near distance. Overhead the twitter of the Chimney Swift is a common sound. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are common and very tame visitors about the flowers. Woodpeckers of different kinds are noted, the Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker being the commonest one. The two flycatchers observed on my premises have been the Eastern Common Kingbird and Eastern Phoebe. Barn Swallows are just beginning to visit my place. Northern Purple Martins are common, and I have them nesting in houses on my place. I have found the pestiferous squash bugs hibernating in the material in their abandoned nests. I have observed 3,000 or more of them collected on the power lines in the fall. I have Northern Blue Jays, while the Eastern Crow repeatedly flies across overhead to and from its roosting grounds. Black-capped Chickadees visit my place, and the Western House Wren is common. Other common summer residents are the Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, and Eastern Common Bluebird, the last-mentioned of which is very timid. I had a flock of about twenty-five European Starlings on a recent fall day. The Western Meadowlark is occasionally present. Cowbirds (subsp.) are sometimes very busy around the feet of a neighbor's cow, but not every day. I have a pair of nesting Baltimore Orioles, and once or twice Bronzed Grackles have visited the place. The Eastern Cardinal is heard every day, but rarely comes close to the house, unlike the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and American Goldfinch. Several kinds of sparrows occur in migration, and in winter I have the Eastern Slate-colored Junco as a common visitor. Cats are not permitted to bide long on my lot, but even so now and then I find a bunch of feathers.—W. H. B. JACOBUS, *Omaha, Nebr.*

N. O. U. COOPERATIVE BIRD MIGRATION LIST FOR SPRING OF 1938 (ONLY THE DATE OF FIRST ARRIVAL GIVEN)

36

	FAIRBURY	LINCOLN	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	NO. PLATTE	STAPLETON
Horned Grebe.....					June 3 (To)	
American Eared Grebe.....		Apr. 30 (Hu)	Apr. 19 (Jo)	May 8 (T)		
Common Pied-billed Grebe.....	May 10 (C)	Apr. 30 (Hu)	Mar. 13 (Ol)	Apr. 17 (T)	Apr. 21 (W)	Apr. 28 (Vi)
White Pelican.....				Apr. 3 (T)	Apr. 10 (To)	Apr. 13 (G)
Great Blue Heron (subsp.).....	May 14 (C)				June 26 (To)	May 1 (La)
American White Egret.....	July 20 (C)					
Snowy Egret (subsp.).....					May 21 (W)	
Eastern Green Heron.....	May 8 (C)		May 6 (Jo)			
American Black-crowned Night Heron.....			Apr. 29 (Brs)		May 1 (To)	Apr. 29 (G)
American Bittern.....	May 1 (C)		May 24 (Jo)		Apr. 20 (W)	Apr. 24 (La)
Eastern Least Bittern.....	May 8 (C)					
Whistling Swan.....						Jan. 1 (Vi)
Canada Goose (subsp.).....	Mar. 31 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)	Mar. 8 (Brs)	Mar. 3 (T)	Feb. 16 (W)	
White-fronted Goose.....	Mar. 19 (C)	Mar. 19 (Hu)	Mar. 21 (Jo)		Mar. 13 (W)	
Lesser Snow Goose.....	Mar. 31 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)		Mar. 13 (L)		Mar. 21 (Lm)
Blue Goose.....	Mar. 31 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)				
Common Mallard (migrants).....			Mar. 8 (Brs)	Jan. 23 (T)	Jan. 17 (W)	Jan. 1 (G)
Gadwall.....	Feb. 14 (C)	Apr. 9 (Hu)			Mar. 18 (To)	Mar. 21 (Lm)
Baldpate.....	Apr. 7 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)	Mar. 20 (J)	Feb. 26 (L)	Mar. 18 (To)	Mar. 7 (G)
American Pintail.....	Mar. 31 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)	Mar. 8 (Brs)	Jan. 23 (T)	Feb. 18 (To)	Feb. 11 (Vi)
Green-winged Teal.....	Mar. 31 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)			Feb. 25 (To)	Mar. 3 (Lm)
Blue-winged Teal.....	Apr. 15 (C)	Apr. 9 (Hu)	Mar. 27 (J)	Mar. 1 (L)	Apr. 12 (W)	Mar. 9 (La)
Cinnamon Teal.....			June 30 (Ek)			
Shoveller.....	Mar. 27 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)		Apr. 17 (T)	Mar. 18 (To)	Mar. 11 (G)
Lesser Scaup.....	Apr. 7 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)	Mar. 30 (J)	Apr. 10 (T)	Mar. 18 (To)	Mar. 19 (Vi)
Redhead.....		Mar. 12 (Hu)			Mar. 18 (To)	Mar. 2 (G)
Ring-necked Duck.....		Mar. 19 (Hu)				Mar. 21 (G)
Canvas-back.....	Apr. 7 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)	May 7 (Ol)		Mar. 18 (To)	Mar. 7 (Vi)
American Golden-eye.....		Mar. 19 (Hu)	Apr. 9 (Brs)	Apr. 17 (T)	Mar. 18 (To)	
Bufflehead.....		Mar. 19 (Hu)	Mar. 26 (J)		Apr. 3 (Cl)	May 21 (G)
Northern Ruddy Duck.....	Apr. 7 (C)	Apr. 9 (Hu)		Apr. 17 (T)	Apr. 10 (W)	Apr. 3 (G)
American Buff-breasted Merganser.....				Jan. 23 (T)	Jan. 15 (W)	
Hooded Merganser.....					Apr. 12 (To)	
Northern Turkey Vulture.....	May 10 (C)					

NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW



	FAIRBURY	LINCOLN	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	NO. PLATTE	STAPLETON
Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk			Apr. 9 (Jo)		Apr. 14 (W)	
Cooper Hawk	Jan. 3 (C)			Mar. 20 (T)	Mar. 4 (To)	
Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.)	May 10 (C)			May 8 (T)	Feb. 20 (To)	Mar. 22 (G)
Harlan Hawk				Mar. 1 (L)		
Northern Broad-winged Hawk		May 21 (Hu)*	Apr. 19 (Jo)			
Swainson Hawk			Mar. 8 (Brs)			Apr. 10 (G)
Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk						Wintered (G)
American Rough-legged Hawk		Apr. 10 (Wi)	Mar. 8 (Brs)	Apr. 27 (T)	Jan. 15 (W)	Wintered (G)
American Golden Eagle					Jan. 15 (W)	Wintered (G)
Bald Eagle (subsp.)					Jan. 11 (W)	Jan. 12 (G)
Marsh Hawk	Jan. 1 (C)				Jan. 3 (W)	Wintered (G)
Prairie Falcon (last seen)				Feb. 23 (L)		Wintered (G)
American Duck Hawk						Feb. 20 (Vi)
Pigeon Hawk (subsp.)		Apr. 10 (Hu)				Apr. 10 (G)
Sparrow Hawk (subsp.) (migrants)	Mar. 26 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)	Mar. 8 (Brs)	Mar. 7 (L)	Jan. 1 (W)	Feb. 23 (G)
Brown Crane (subsp.)			Mar. 20 (J)	Mar. 20 (T)	Feb. 22 (W)	Mar. 11 (La)
Northern Virginia Rail				Apr. 19 (Tt)		June 12 (Vm)
Florida Gallinule				Apr. 3 (T)		
Northern American Coot	Mar. 27 (C)	Apr. 9 (Hu)	Mar. 27 (J)	Apr. 3 (T)	Apr. 12 (To)	Apr. 10 (P)
Piping Plover					May 15 (Cl)	
Semipalmated Plover		May 15 (Hu)				
Northern Killdeer	Feb. 12 (C)	Mar. 8 (R)	Mar. 8 (J)	Feb. 12 (T)	Mar. 13 (W)	Mar. 12 (La)
Wilson Snipe	Apr. 7 (C)	Apr. 23 (Hu)	Mar. 26 (J)			Apr. 13 (G)
Long-billed Curlew (subsp.)					Apr. 10 (Cl)	Apr. 18 (Vhm)
Upland Plover				Apr. 19 (L)	May 7 (W)	May 8 (G)
Spotted Sandpiper	May 8 (C)	Apr. 30 (Hu)	May 14 (J)		May 7 (To)	May 21 (G)
Solitary Sandpiper (subsp.)	Apr. 30 (C)		Apr. 27 (Jo)			
Western Willet						May 16 (Vi)
Lesser Yellow-legs	Apr. 7 (C)	Apr. 30 (Hu)	Apr. 19 (Jo)		Apr. 13 (W)	Apr. 24 (G)
White-rumped Sandpiper					May 22 (Cl)	
Baird Sandpiper		Mar. 20 (Hk)	Apr. 1 (Brs)		May 7 (Cl)	
Red-backed Sandpiper					May 7 (Cl)	
Dowitcher (subsp.)			Apr. 29 (Sy)		May 8 (Cl)	Apr. 28 (G)
Semipalmated Sandpiper					Apr. 3 (To)	
Marbled Godwit					May 15 (To)	

\*At Weeping Water.

	FAIRBURY	LINCOLN	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	NO. PLATTE	STAPLETON
Hudsonian Godwit.....						Apr. 28 (G)
Avocet.....					June 3 (To)	May 6 (G)
Wilson Phalarope.....	May 10 (C)				May 8 (Cl)	May 1 (G)
American Herring Gull.....					Mar. 6 (To)	
Ring-billed Gull.....					Apr. 3 (To)	Apr. 11 (Pt)
Franklin Gull.....	Apr. 16 (C)	Apr. 23 (R)	Apr. 25 (Ol)	Apr. 18 (Tt)	Apr. 23 (W)	Apr. 15 (Pte)
Common Tern.....	May 20 (C)					
Forster Tern.....					May 4 (W)	
Eastern Least Tern.....		May 21 (Hu)*			May 21 (Cl)	
American Black Tern.....	May 18 (C)		May 22 (Ol)	May 1 (T)	May 10 (To)	May 15 (G)
Western Mourning Dove.....	Wintered	Apr. 1 (Sw)	Mar. 21 (Gn)	Mar. 17 (T)	Mar. 26 (To)	Mar. 18 (La)
Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	May 10 (C)	May 18 (Sw)	May 15 (J)	May 9 (L)	May 21 (To)	May 28 (G)
Black-billed Cuckoo.....	May 10 (C)	May 19 (Wi)	May 26 (J)	May 24 (T)	June 4 (W)	June 18 (Vi)
Western Great Horned Owl.....					Feb. 1 (W)	Wintered (G)
Western Burrowing Owl.....			Apr. 9 (Jo)	May 15 (T)	Apr. 2 (W)	Apr. 13 (G)
Northern Short-eared Owl.....					Mar. 17 (Cl)	
Nighthawk (subsp.).....	May 10 (C)			May 13 (L)		
Sennett Nighthawk.....			May 25 (J)	May 18 (T)	May 20 (To)	May 21 (Gld)
Chimney Swift.....	Apr. 23 (C)	Apr. 25 (Hu)	May 4 (Jo)	Apr. 26 (T)		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	May 16 (C)		May 23 (Hs)	May 4 (T)	June 21 (To)	
Belted Kingfisher (migrants).....	Mar. 31 (C)	Apr. 30 (Hu)	Mar. 30 (J)	Mar. 27 (L)	Mar. 21 (Cl)	Apr. 15 (G)
Yellow-shafted Flicker (migrants).....	Mar. 6 (C)	Mar. 22 (Sw)		Mar. 10 (L)		Mar. 21 (G)
Common Red-shafted Flicker.....	Mar. 19 (C)			Mar. 27 (T)	Mar. 17 (Cl)	
Red-bellied Woodpecker.....	Jan. 1 (C)		May 25 (J)			
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	Apr. 26 (C)	Apr. 30 (Hu)	Apr. 25 (Ol)	May 1 (T)	May 10 (To)	May 7 (G)
Eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	Apr. 7 (C)		Apr. 9 (Jo)	May 18 (T)	Apr. 8 (W)	
Eastern Kingbird.....	Apr. 28 (C)	May 5 (Sw)	Apr. 29 (Brs)	Apr. 23 (Pg)	May 2 (W)	May 1 (Gld)
Arkansas Kingbird.....	May 1 (C)	May 18 (Wi)	Apr. 23 (Ol)	Apr. 23 (Pg)	May 1 (W)	May 2 (Gld)
Northern Crested Flycatcher.....	Apr. 30 (C)	May 21 (Hu)**	May 1 (Ol)	May 15 (T)	May 16 (To)	
Eastern Phoebe.....	Mar. 11 (C)	Mar. 19 (Hu)	Mar. 26 (J)		Apr. 19 (W)	
Rocky Mountain Say Phoebe.....			Mar. 27 (Brs)		Apr. 20 (W)	Apr. 5 (G)
Alder Traill Flycatcher.....		May 16 (Wi)	May 1 (B)		Apr. 23 (W)	May 8 (G)
Least Flycatcher.....		May 2 (Wi)	May 7 (Ol)	May 9 (L)	Apr. 23 (W)	May 3 (G)
Eastern Wood Pewee.....	May 10 (C)	May 21 (Hu)**		May 12 (L)		
Western Wood Pewee.....					May 21 (W)	

\*At Louisville.    \*\*At Weeping Water.

	FAIRBURY	LINCOLN	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	NO. PLATTE	STAPLETON
Hoyt Horned Lark				Jan. 1 (L)		Jan. 19 (G)
Tree Swallow	May 10 (C)			May 8 (T)		
Common Bank Swallow	May 10 (C)	Apr. 27 (S)	Apr. 19 (Jo)	Apr. 24 (T)	May 1 (To)	Apr. 24 (La)
Rough-winged Swallow	May 16 (C)	Apr. 23 (Hu)	May 1 (B)	Apr. 26 (L)	May 4 (To)	June 14 (G)
Barn Swallow	May 10 (C)	Apr. 23 (Hu)	May 19 (Jo)	Apr. 26 (L)	Apr. 18 (W)	Apr. 24 (La)
Eastern Cliff Swallow					May 23 (W)	
Northern Purple Martin	Mar. 28 (Hy)	Apr. 2 (R)	Apr. 25 (J)	Apr. 18 (T)	May 12 (To)	May 7 (Sny)
Northern Blue Jay (migrants)	Apr. 22 (C)	Apr. 25 (Wi)	Apr. 23 (Brs)	Apr. 23 (T)		Apr. 28 (G)
American Magpie					Jan. 2 (W)	
Red-breasted Nuthatch (last seen)	June 6 (C)					
Eastern Brown Creeper (last seen)	Apr. 9 (Hy)	Mar. 14 (Sw)				Apr. 10 (Gl)
Western House Wren	May 10 (C)	Apr. 22 (S)	Apr. 19 (Jo)	Apr. 22 (T)	Apr. 29 (To)	May 3 (G)
Bewick Wren (subsp.)			Apr. 21 (Ol)		May 24 (W)	
Eastern Carolina Wren	Mar. 27 (C)					
Long-billed Marsh Wren (subsp.)					May 22 (To)	June 3 (Gl)
Short-billed Marsh Wren		May 18 (Ft)				
Common Rock Wren					May 17 (To)	Apr. 14 (G)
Mockingbird (subsp.)	Apr. 21 (C)	May 8 (Wi)	Apr. 10 (Jo)	Apr. 27 (T)	May 3 (W)	May 3 (Vi)*
Catbird	May 4 (C)	May 8 (Wi)	May 5 (Br)	May 10 (T)	May 16 (Cl)	May 15 (Gl)
Brown Thrasher	Mar. 28 (C)	Apr. 19 (Wi)	Apr. 23 (J)	Apr. 23 (L)	Apr. 23 (To)	Apr. 26 (G)
Eastern Robin (migrants)	Feb. 2 (C)	Feb. 7 (Hu)	Mar. 1 (J)	Feb. 12 (T)	Feb. 18 (W)	Feb. 22 (G)
Wood Thrush			May 5 (Jo)	May 16 (L)	May 16 (W)	
Hermit Thrush (subsp.)		Apr. 9 (Hu)				
Olive-backed Swainson Thrush	May 10 (C)	May 23 (Sw)	May 7 (J)	May 7 (T)	May 4 (W)	May 3 (G)
Northern Gray-cheeked Thrush		May 8 (Hk)	May 15 (J)	May 7 (T)	May 7 (W)	May 6 (G)
Veery (subsp.)				May 24 (T)	May 16 (W)	
Eastern Common Bluebird	Feb. 13 (C)	Mar. 12 (H)	Mar. 8 (Brs)	Mar. 8 (L)	Apr. 1 (W)	Apr. 14 (G)
Mountain Bluebird			Mar. 25 (Ol)		Mar. 12 (W)	Apr. 5 (G)
Townsend Solitaire			Mar. 30 (F)			
Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	May 10 (C)		Apr. 23 (J)			
Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet		Apr. 9 (Hu)		Mar. 29 (T)	Jan. 4 (W)	
Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Apr. 16 (C)	Apr. 23 (Wi)	Apr. 14 (Jo)			May 6 (Gl)
American Common Pipit						Apr. 25 (Vi)
Cedar Waxwing	Feb. 13 (C)	Feb. 17 (Tm)	Mar. 9 (Mr)	Mar. 8 (T)	May 13 (W)	Mar. 11 (La)
Bohemian Waxwing	Jan. 3 (C)				May 7 (W)	

\*Identified as the western subspecies.

	FAIRBURY	LINCOLN	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	NO. PLATTE	STAPLETON
Northern Shrike (subsp.) (last seen).....		Apr. 11 (Wi)			Jan. 15 (W)	Mar. 26 (G)
Loggerhead Shrike (subsp.).....	Mar. 19 (C)	Mar. 20 (Wi)	Mar. 14 (St)	Mar. 27 (T)	Mar. 27 (Cl)	May 6 (G)
European Starling.....	Jan. 3 (C)	Jan. 9 (Wi)		Apr. 12 (T)	Mar. 1 (W)	Mar. 10 (G)
Northern Bell Vireo.....	May 10 (C)	May 5 (Wi)	May 24 (Jo)	Apr. 26 (T)	May 12 (To)	May 15 (G)
Yellow-throated Vireo.....					May 17 (W)	
Blue-headed Solitary Vireo.....			May 14 (Jo)		May 21 (Cl)	
Red-eyed Vireo.....	May 10 (C)	May 17 (Wi)	May 2 (Sy)	Apr. 30 (T)	May 11 (W)	May 15 (G)
Warbling Vireo.....	Apr. 29 (C)	Apr. 23 (S)	May 1 (J)	Apr. 24 (T)	May 4 (Cl)	May 3 (Gl)
Black and White Warbler.....		May 18 (Wi)	Apr. 29 (Ol)		May 9 (Cl)	Apr. 26 (Gl)
Tennessee Warbler.....	Apr. 21 (C)	May 1 (S)	May 4 (Jo)	Apr. 15 (T)	May 21 (To)	
Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler.....		May 7 (Wi)	Apr. 17 (Yo)		Apr. 23 (W)	
Eastern Nashville Warbler.....			May 19 (Jo)		May 21 (To)	Apr. 28 (Gl)
Yellow Warbler (subsp.).....	May 1 (C)	Apr. 26 (Sw)	May 1 (Br)	May 1 (T)	May 3 (To)	May 3 (Gl)
Magnolia Warbler.....					May 5 (W)	
Eastern Myrtle Warbler.....	May 10 (C)	Apr. 21 (Wi)	Apr. 13 (Yo)		Apr. 18 (W)	Apr. 21 (G)
Northern Audubon Warbler.....					Apr. 23 (To)	Apr. 20 (G)
Black-poll Warbler.....	May 17 (C)		May 12 (Jo)	May 1 (T)	May 8 (Cl)	May 6 (G)
Ovenbird.....		May 18 (Wi)	May 12 (J)		May 17 (W)	May 10 (G)
Grinnell Common Water-Thrush.....	May 10 (C)	May 18 (Wi)		May 8 (T)		
Maryland Yellow-throat (subsp.).....	May 10 (C)	May 1 (Hu)	May 2 (F)	May 4 (L)	May 4 (To)	May 3 (Df)
Chat (subsp.).....	May 10 (C)		May 15 (Rw)	May 22 (T)	May 8 (Cl)	May 17 (Gl)
American Redstart.....	May 10 (C)	May 5 (S)	May 14 (Yo)	Apr. 17 (L)*	May 4 (Cl)	May 3 (Gl)
Bobolink.....			May 22 (Rw)	May 8 (T)	May 11 (To)	May 11 (Vi)
Eastern Common Meadowlark.....	May 7 (C)	May 29 (Wi)	Mar. 20 (J)			Apr. 3 (G)
Western Meadowlark.....	Jan. 3 (C)	Mar. 9 (Wi)	Mar. 8 (J)	Feb. 20 (L)	Jan. 2 (W)	Wintered (G)
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	Apr. 15 (C)		Apr. 24 (Jo)	Apr. 24 (T)	May 8 (To)	Apr. 23 (Vi)
Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.).....	Mar. 6 (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)	Mar. 6 (Rz)	Mar. 13 (L)	Mar. 8 (W)	Wintered (G)
Orchard Oriole.....	Apr. 30 (C)	May 1 (Wi)	Apr. 29 (Ol)	May 2 (T)	May 14 (To)	May 9 (Ve)
Baltimore Oriole.....	Apr. 28 (C)	Apr. 28 (S)	May 2 (J)	Apr. 30 (T)	May 10 (To)	May 9 (Gl)
Bullock Oriole.....					May 11 (W)	May 21 (Gl)
Brewer Blackbird.....			Mar. 27 (Sy)	Apr. 3 (T)	Mar. 6 (To)	Apr. 27 (G)
Bronzed Grackle (migrants).....	Mar. 6 (C)	Mar. 20 (Sw)	Mar. 20 (Rz)	Mar. 4 (L)	Mar. 21 (W)	Mar. 27 (Gl)
Cowbird (subsp.).....	Mar. 6 (C)	Mar. 27 (Wi)	Mar. 26 (J)	Apr. 10 (T)	Apr. 24 (To)	April 29 (G)
Scarlet Tanager.....			May 14 (Br)		May 18 (To)	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	May 10 (C)	Apr. 30 (Hu)	May 10 (J)	May 9 (T)		

\*Next seen April 23 (L), unusually early dates; last seen May 20 (T).—Ed.

	FAIRBURY	LINCOLN	HASTINGS	RED CLOUD	NO. PLATTE	STAPLETON
Rky. Mtn. Black-headed Grosbeak	May 16 (C)		Apr. 29 (Sy)	Apr. 29 (L)	May 3 (To)	Apr. 24 (Df)
Western Blue Grosbeak	May 8 (C)	May 16 (Ft)	May 26 (J)	May 16 (L)	May 16 (W)	May 23 (Gl)
Indigo Bunting		May 21 (Hu)*	May 26 (J)	May 30 (T)		
Lazuli Bunting			Apr. 30 (J)		May 5 (Cl)	
Dickcissel		May 1 (Hu)	May 22 (Ol)	May 12 (L)	May 15 (To)	June 5 (Gl)
Pine Grosbeak (subsp.)					May 16 (W)	
Red Crossbill (subsp.)		Mar. 23 (Bu)	Mar. 2 (Mr)	Apr. 4 (T)**		
Northern Pine Siskin	Jan. 1 (C)	Feb. 4 (Sw)		Feb. 25 (T)	Feb. 25 (W)	Wintered (Gl)
Red-eyed Eastern Towhee	Apr. 29 (C)	Mar. 23 (Sw)	Apr. 23 (J)			
Arctic Spotted Towhee	May 10 (C)	Mar. 15 (Wi)	Apr. 19 (Jo)	Apr. 23 (T)	Apr. 23 (W)	Apr. 30 (Gla)
Lark Bunting			May 15 (J)	May 15 (T)	May 2 (W)	May 3 (Vi)
Savannah Sparrow (subsp.)	May 10 (C)	Apr. 23 (Hu)	Apr. 21 (J)		May 11 (To)	
Western Grasshopper Sparrow	Apr. 15 (C)		May 15 (J)	Mar. 23 (L)	May 11 (Cl)	May 27 (G)
Western Henslow Sparrow				May 9 (T)		
Vesper Sparrow (subsp.)	Apr. 9 (C)		Apr. 17 (J)	Apr. 22 (L)	Apr. 20 (W)	Apr. 13 (G)
Lark Sparrow (subsp.)	Apr. 15 (C)	Apr. 23 (Hu)	Apr. 19 (Jo)	Apr. 17 (T)	Apr. 19 (W)	Apr. 14 (G)
Eastern Slate-colored Junco (last seen)		Apr. 30 (Hu)		Mar. 3 (T)	Feb. 1 (W)	
Shufeldt Oregon Junco (last seen)		Feb. 16 (S)		Jan. 1 (L)	Feb. 1 (W)	
Pink-sided Junco					Feb. 1 (W)	
Gray-headed Junco					Mar. 29 (W)	
Tree Sparrow (subsp.)	Wintered (C)	Mar. 12 (Hu)		Feb. 26 (T)	Jan. 23 (W)	
Chipping Sparrow (subsp.)	Mar. 11 (C)	Mar. 31 (Bu)	Apr. 22 (J)	Mar. 19 (L)	May 4 (Cl)	Apr. 29 (G)
Clay-colored Sparrow	Apr. 28 (C)	Apr. 18 (Wi)	Apr. 29 (J)	May 9 (T)	Apr. 23 (W)	Apr. 29 (G)
Field Sparrow (subsp.)	Apr. 30 (C)	Apr. 9 (Hu)	Apr. 14 (Jo)	Mar. 30 (T)	Apr. 23 (W)	Apr. 29 (G)
Harris Sparrow (migrants)	Wintered (C)	Mar. 10 (Wi)		Feb. 20 (L)	Mar. 27 (W)	May 4 (G)
Eastern White-crowned Sparrow	May 7 (C)	Apr. 19 (Wi)	Apr. 29 (Ol)	Apr. 27 (L)	Apr. 21 (W)	Apr. 19 (Vhm)
Gambel Sparrow		May 18 (Sw)	Apr. 19 (Jo)	Apr. 27 (L)	Apr. 14 (W)	May 3 (G)
White-throated Sparrow		May 12 (Wi)	Apr. 24 (J)	Apr. 27 (L)	May 11 (W)	May 5 (G)
Eastern Fox Sparrow				Apr. 3 (T)		
Common Lincoln Sparrow	Apr. 30 (C)	Apr. 9 (Hu)	Apr. 23 (J)	May 9 (T)	Apr. 28 (W)	May 6 (G)
Swamp Sparrow		Apr. 9 (Hu)		Apr. 3 (T)		
Song Sparrow (subsp.)	Feb. 14 (C)	Mar. 20 (Wi)	Mar. 26 (Jo)	Mar. 17 (L)	Apr. 12 (Cl)	Apr. 8 (Ve)
Eastern Snow Bunting						Feb. 20 (Vi)
Lapland Longspur (subsp.)				Mar. 16 (T)	Mar. 29 (W)	Wintered (G)
Chestnut-collared Longspur						Apr. 5 (G)

\*At Weeping Water. \*\*Last seen.

## KEY

The following is the key to the symbols of the names of the persons primarily responsible for the dates in the 1938 composite bird migration table given on the preceding pages: B=Mr. A. M. Brooking, Br=Mrs. A. M. Brooking, Brs=Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Brooking, Bu=Mrs. C. O. Bruce, C=Misses Susie and Agness Callaway, Cl=Mrs. Carl Collister, Df=Mr. August Delfs, Ek=Mr. Dean Eckhoff, F=Mrs. J. D. Fuller, Ft=Mr. Edson Fichter, G=Mr. Earl W. Glandon, Gl=Mrs. Rose Glandon, Gla=Mr. Adrian Glandon, Gld=Mr. Merwyn Glandon, Gn=Mrs. R. O. Green, Hk=Mr. Frederick W. Haecker, Hs=Miss Carrie Hansen, Hu=Mr. George E. Hudson, Hy=Miss Bertha Holly, J=Mrs. A. H. Jones, Jo=Mrs. A. M. Jones, L=Mr. C. S. Ludlow, Ll=Mr. Harold Ludlow, La=Mr. Myron Lambert, Lm=Mr. Burke E. Lambert, Mr=Mrs. E. R. Maunder, Ol=Mrs. A. E. Olsen, P=Mr. Walter Pogson, Pg=Mr. Ben Pegg, Pt=Mr. Frank E. Peterson, Pte=Mrs. Frank E. Peterson, R=Mr. Raymond Roberts, Rz=Mr. Charles Rantz, S=Mr. M. H. Swenk, Sny=Mr. Verne Snyder, St=Mrs. A. H. Staley, Sw=Mrs. M. H. Swenk, Sy=Miss M. Caryle Sylla, T=Mrs. George Trine, Tm=Mrs. Dwight Thomas, To=Mr. Wilson Tout, Tt=Mr. Edward Tennant, Ve=Mrs. Katherine Viehmeyer, Vi=Mr. Glenn Viehmeyer, Vhm=Mrs. George J. Viehmeyer, Vm=Mr. George J. Viehmeyer, W=Mr. Harry E. Weakly, Wi=Miss Louisa Wilson, and Yo=Mrs. F. L. Youngblood.

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

The thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held at Superior, Nebraska, on Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, 1938. The members were guests of the Garden Department of the Superior Women's Club. The registration table was installed in the lobby of the Nebraskan Hotel under the efficient supervision of Mrs. Rosalind M. Griffin, at 9:30 A. M., and registration continued during the morning as members arrived. The meeting, which was held in the Superior Auditorium, was called to order at 11:00 A. M. by President Harry E. Weakly, and the business session started promptly at 11:05 A. M.

Reading of the minutes of the thirty-eighth annual meeting was first in order of business. On motion of Mrs. H. C. Johnston, seconded by Mrs. L. H. McKillip, the minutes of the previous annual meeting were approved as printed (*antea*, v, pp. 66-71), without being read. Corresponding Secretary Earl W. Glandon then reported on the N. O. U. membership. The membership for 1937-38, as of July 1, 1937, was 134 members (*antea*, v, pp. 66-67), while on May 1, 1938, it stood at 144, a net gain of ten members. (The election of eleven new members later in the morning brought the membership to 155.)\* Mr. Glandon offered as a suggestion for increasing the membership his observation that towns and cities with local bird clubs had the largest group of members in the N. O. U. Editor-Custodian M. H. Swenk then reported for his office, remarking that the income from subscriptions to the *Review* and sale of sets and back numbers of the *Proceedings* and *Review* during the year, totalling \$82.50, more than covered the cost of printing the January-June, 1938, *Review* (\$79.00), and that the size of the July-December, 1938, number would be directly dependent upon the revenues received from membership dues.

\*On July 1, 1938, the membership for 1938-39 was 136, two more than at the same date one year previously. As an economy measure the membership roll, usually published following the minutes, is omitted for 1938-39.—Ed.

A report from Treasurer L. M. Gates, next presented, may be summarized as follows: "Cash on hand, May 1, 1937, \$240.83; 70 annual dues for 1937-38, \$70.00; 54 annual dues for 1938-39, \$54.00; 2 annual dues for 1939-40, \$2.00; 1 subscription for 1937, \$1.00; 29 subscriptions for 1938, \$29.00; 1 subscription for 1939, \$1.00; sale of sets and single copies of the *Review*, \$34.00; sale of sets of *Proceedings*, \$17.50; total receipts, \$449.33. Of this amount, \$41.33 was spent for postage for the offices of the Treasurer and Editor-Custodian; \$20.36 for stationery for these offices; for printing and engraving of the July and October, 1937, and the January-June, 1938, numbers of the *Review*, and reprints of an advertisement of the N. O. U. publications, \$282.03; bank service charges, \$0.60; leaving a balance on hand on May 2, 1938, of \$105.01." After the conclusion of the Treasurer's report, M. H. Swenk made a motion that it be submitted to an Auditing Committee. The motion prevailed, and President Weakly appointed Clyde L. Licking, Mrs. Dorr Mahoney, and Glenn Viehmeyer to serve, and to report at the afternoon session. At the same time, President Weakly appointed Mrs. A. H. Jones, Mrs. Earle Lionberger, and L. M. Gates as the Resolutions Committee.

The next item on the business program was a report from Wilson Tout, Chairman of the Committee on Junior Bird Clubs, which, in Mr. Tout's absence, was read by President Weakly. While much good work had been done, and it is estimated that fifty 4-H Bird Clubs had organized by this spring, the Committee was not ready to make a final report. A motion was made by Mr. Glandon, seconded by Mrs. McKillip, and carried, that the Committee be continued for another year, as requested by Mr. Tout, to report at the next annual meeting.

Mrs. H. C. Johnston, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, which had been appointed some time in advance of the meeting by President Weakly, then presented the slate of nominations of officers for 1938-39, as follows: President—George E. Hudson, Lincoln; Vice-President—A. A. Adams, Hastings; Corresponding Secretary—Earl W. Glandon, Stapleton; Recording Secretary—Mrs. George W. Trine, Red Cloud; Treasurer—L. M. Gates, Lincoln; and Editor-Custodian—M. H. Swenk, Lincoln. On motion of Mrs. McKillip the list was approved and the unanimous ballot of the society was cast for the persons nominated by the Committee and these officers declared duly elected.

The proposal of names and election of new members was next in the order of business. Eleven new members for 1938-39 were then proposed and elected, as follows: Wilmer Blackett, Mrs. Wilmer Blackett, John Emrich, Ralph Hammond, Miss Margaret E. Marsh, Grant Parsons, R. S. Snider, and Mrs. G. H. Woodward, of Omaha, and John H. Mullison, Mrs. Paul Schmeling, and J. H. Worley, of Superior. A motion by Dr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Glandon, that the new members be accepted in a group was approved, and they were declared duly elected to membership.

A suggestion from Wilson Tout regarding the separation of the program and field day was then brought before the meeting. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by M. H. Swenk and seconded by L. M. Gates that the subject be referred to a special committee, and brought up again next year. The motion prevailed and President Weakly appointed Mrs. L. H. McKillip (Chairman), L. O. Horsky, and Wilson Tout, to serve on the committee. Mrs. McKillip then suggested that the days of the annual meeting be changed from Friday and Saturday, to Saturday and Sunday, to accommodate teachers, pupils, business men, and others who are unable to attend the meeting on the present days. After a general discussion, Mrs. A. H. Jones proposed that a questionnaire be sent to the membership as a means of securing an expression of opinion as to the advisability of separating the program and field day. A motion was made and carried that the special committee handle this matter and report next year. Mrs. McKillip then moved that the questionnaire include the change in days proposal as well, and the motion

was carried. On motion, adjournment was then ordered for the lunch hour.

The afternoon session was opened at 1:30 o'clock with the program. The first number was a talk by V. W. Binderup of Minden on "Nature Study in Our Public Schools". Mr. Binderup's remarks may be summarized in the following words: "Some time after Mr. C. L. Jones, our present Superintendent of Schools at Minden, took charge here, he requested that I give a short talk on bees. When I was but a boy on the farm, I received a booklet written by the late A. I. Root, world authority on bees, and became fascinated with the interesting habits and social economy of these insects, so I gladly consented to give the talk. For the best paper on bees we gave a trip to the Nebraska Honey Producers' Association, and the next year three boys were granted such a trip. This marked the beginning of the nature study work in our Minden Public Schools.

"About a decade ago, Kearney and Buffalo Counties decided to purchase forty acres of the Old Fort Kearny site, which in its entirety was ten miles square. After purchase, these forty acres were turned over to the Game, Forestation and Parks Commission of Nebraska to be a State Park. But there were then no trees on the park area except for a few survivors from those planted by the army when the fort was active, so I conceived the idea that I would give tree talks throughout the schools of Kearney County, and that every boy or girl passing an examination based on these talks would receive one elm tree for planting in the Old Fort Kearny Park. Three trees were to be donated by the Marshall's Nursery of Arlington and the Harrison Nursery of York. I submitted this plan to the then Governor Arthur Weaver, who encouraged me to proceed and promised to see that the trees were planted. As a result of this tree examination, 220 boys and girls received trees, all of which were planted at old Fort Kearny in 1934, a bronze marker with the child's name being placed on each tree. Subsequently, some 500 more trees have been added, making a nice grove of growing trees on the Old Fort Kearny site.

"The following year birds were added to the subjects included in our nature study in the Minden Schools. As a result of an examination on birds conducted in the Junior High School, the 75 boys and girls placing highest were given a free trip to the Hastings Municipal Museum, where they were entertained by the Chamber of Commerce and returned to their homes by way of the Burlington Railroad. The following year a similar trip was given to all rural sixth, seventh and eighth grade pupils in Kearney County who were able to pass the bird examination. The Minden School Board, the Kearney County Commissioners, and all of the teachers in the Minden Schools are very interested in nature study. As a result lessons on bees, trees, birds, and flowers are now given regularly each week during the school year in all town and rural schools in Kearney County, with much interest among the pupils and benefit to them revealed in many ways."

President Weakly then spoke a few words in appreciation of Mr. Binderup's interesting work, and requested that the N. O. U. sponsor and push the idea, following which he called on George E. Hudson of Lincoln for his talk on "Characters for the Distinguishing of Similar Species and Subspecies of Shore Birds". Dr. Hudson illustrated his remarks with study skin specimens of the birds under discussion, and explained the most useful features for distinguishing similar forms. The species discussed were the curlews, the Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, the Western Willet, Greater Yellow-legs and Lesser Yellow-legs, the Upland Plover, the Woodcock and Wilson Snipe, the dowitchers, the Least, Semipalmated, and Western Sandpipers, the Pectoral, Baird and White-rumped Sandpipers, and the Sanderling. An open discussion followed, and numerous questions were answered by the speaker. Professor Swenk reported on a study he had made of Nebraska dowitchers, indicating that the Eastern Dowitcher was but a rare straggler in Nebraska, but that the Long-billed



Dowitcher and Interior Dowitcher were common migrants, especially the last-mentioned subspecies.

"Is the Prairie Chicken on the Way Out?", a paper by Glenn Viehmeyer of Stapleton, was the next number on the program. A warning was sounded that this native bird, formerly so numerous, is now becoming rare, with barely the minimum number for survival now present in the state.

At the request of President Weakly, Mrs. A. H. Jones, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, then read the proposed resolutions, after which a short intermission was ordered.

At 3:00 P. M., the program was resumed with a paper on "Feathered Friends, Old and New, in Mexico" by Mrs. L. H. McKillip of Seward. This was a narrative of an automobile trip to Mexico City, with many interesting observations of unfamiliar species in the southern states and Old Mexico, and the recognition of many well-known species that winter across our southern border in Mexico. Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior then gave a fascinating lecture on "Birds of English Song and Story." On a trip to England last year Mrs. Johnston made many observations on the birds of England. No bird song was familiar to her, and numerous species common in England were noted, including the Nightingale, Blackbird, Song Thrushes, English Robins, Bullfinches, Tufted Ducks and Moorhens. After closing this talk, Mrs. Johnston was recalled to give a brief account of American species of birds noted by her on a recent trip to California.

The next regular number on the program was to have been an address by M. C. Pedersen of Lincoln, Chairman of the Nebraska Wildlife Federation, but in his inability to be present Dr. Pedersen transmitted at some length in a letter the message that he had expected to give personally to the N. O. U. membership. He first pointed out that the N. O. U. and the Nebraska Wildlife Federation had many problems of conservation and restoration of wildlife in common that should cement the bonds of friendship between the two organizations, and that only when the forces in favor of real conservation measures work together harmoniously as united groups are worthwhile results obtained. The exceeding needs of conservation and restoration on the North American continent were illustrated by him through specific examples, and the objectives and accomplishments to date of the General Wildlife Federation were outlined. As to these, Dr. Pedersen wrote, in part:

"If the (General) Wildlife Federation can coordinate the efforts of 11,000,000 sportsmen and the 36,000 clubs, which will include 4-H Clubs, Woman's Clubs, Garden Clubs, Boy Scouts, Audubon Societies, and Izaak Walton, or any (other) group interested, into a Federation with the same objectives in mind, we certainly are going to exert a public opinion that will be heard, and results obtained. To date in Nebraska, twenty-three counties have County Wildlife Councils, with almost 500 organizations enrolled. The Nebraska Federation has already functioned in helping pass the Pittman-Robertson Bill that earmarks \$3,000,000 annually for wildlife restoration purposes, which means Nebraska will receive \$70,000 annually if our game commissions will add \$20,000. This bill is effective beginning July, 1938. There are many projects needing attention and many different views regarding the proper procedure to accomplish these ends. There are so-called sportsmen who wish to have longer seasons and easier regulations, in order to bag game more easily, and while the word conservation is frequently heard, in the next breath a longer season is urged. I hope your Convention will pass a resolution urging the Nebraska Fish and Game Commission to recommend the continuance of the same strict regulations of the Biological Survey with the thirty-day season instead of a proposed forty-five day hunting season, as suggested by some groups. I also hope you go on record as urging a closed season on Mourning Doves. While in the Southern States hunting of doves is

universally accepted, I do not believe the citizens of Nebraska take kindly to the hunting of this bird. The Nebraska Game and Fish Commission will no doubt close the season as they are convinced the public does not want a hunting season on doves."

President Weakly then called for the report of the Auditing Committee. The Committee stated that the Treasurer's report had been examined and found to be correct. On motion, this report was approved and accepted. The report of the Resolutions Committee, presented just before the mid-afternoon intermission, then came up for discussion. The several resolutions were discussed fully, from varying viewpoints, and acted upon separately, the following being adopted by the Convention:

"Be it resolved that we thank the Garden Department of the Superior Women's Club for facilities provided, and for its courtesy and hospitality extended to us at our meeting in their city; and further

"Be it resolved that we express our appreciation to our retiring President, Mr. Harry E. Weakly, for his time and effort spent for the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union during the past year; and further

"Be it resolved that we desire strongly to commend the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission for sponsoring the amendment of the Nebraska statutes so as to extend protection to the beneficial Red-shouldered Hawk and Sparrow Hawk, and to the rare and disappearing Pigeon Hawk, and to remove protection from the harmful Bronzed Grackle and European Starling. We hope that the Commission may see fit to extend further effective legal and enforcement protection to all of our beneficial and persecuted eagles, hawks, and owls, including the sponsoring of a law making it unlawful for any one to set or use any pole trap in Nebraska, which device is unnecessarily cruel and destroys only the valuable grasshopper and mouse eating type of hawk, and not the type that raids the poultry yard and game farm. We also most strongly urge that the Commission restore Nebraska to the group of northern states that does not approve of the shooting of Mourning Doves, and that it announce at an early date a reversing of its 1937 action in a complete and permanent closing of the open season on doves in Nebraska; and further

"Be it resolved that we wish to express our support of the Bureau of Biological Survey in its effort to adjust the open season on waterfowl for 1938 to the current year's crop of these game birds, and, in case of any uncertainty, to give the benefit of the doubt to the conservation of the birds. We urge that the Bureau continue to decide the proper length of time of the open season on ducks, geese, and other migratory waterfowl on the basis of their field observations and other scientific data, rather than to yield to the insistence of shooters' organizations and others who would be willing to sacrifice the future welfare and preservation of these birds for the sake of immediate sport."

There was no dissenting vote on any of the four resolutions adopted. With the action on the resolutions the day's program was closed.

Sixty members and guests gathered at the Nebraskan Hotel at 6:30 P. M. for the annual banquet. The tables were beautiful with flowers supplied from the gardens of the members of the Garden Department of the Superior Women's Club. At the close of the banquet greetings on behalf of the host organization were extended by Fred Day, and a response on behalf of the N. O. U. was given by President Weakly. The address of the retiring President then followed, Mr. Weakly choosing for his topic "The N. O. U. and Its Place in Wildlife Conservation". This address called upon the N. O. U. membership to hold for the principles of true conservation.

The chairs were then rearranged in the banquet room, and Mrs. A. H. Jones of Hastings gave an illustrated lecture with colored slides on "Wood Warblers". The evening program ended with a lecture by Dr. Hudson, also illustrated with slides, dealing with many unusual forms of bird life, past and present.

Notwithstanding inclement weather and muddy roads, the meeting at Superior was well attended. Forty N. O. U. members were present, as follows: Mesdames A. A. Adams, A. M. Brooking, Glen Chapman, George L. Day, H. L. Fabrique, J. D. Fuller, L. M. Gates, Rosalind M. Griffin, H. F. Hole, L. O. Horsky, H. C. Johnston, A. H. Jones, A. M. Jones, Earle Lionberger, Dorr Mahoney, L. H. McKillip, Josephine Day Mendell, F. J. Patton, Paul Schmeling, George Scoular, M. H. Swenk, and George W. Trine; Misses Marian Day, Bertha Holly, Ruth M. Mauck, and M. Caryle Sylla; and Messrs. A. A. Adams, V. W. Binderup, Fred Day, L. M. Gates, E. W. Glandon, A. L. Haecker, F. W. Haecker, L. O. Horsky, G. E. Hudson, H. C. Johnston, Clyde L. Licking, M. H. Swenk, Glenn Viehmeyer, and Harry E. Weakly.

MRS. GEORGE W. TRINE, *Recording Secretary, N. O. U.*

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

On Saturday, May 14, the thirty-sixth annual field day of the N. O. U. was held in the Superior vicinity. The day was clear, but there was a strong and rather chilly north wind, and some dust was blowing in from the northwest. The ground was wet from the heavy rains of the preceding two days. The field parties totalled about fifty persons. The start was made by all parties at 6:00 A. M. from the Nebraskan Hotel. One party drove west to Pawnee Lake, near Guide Rock, to study the water birds, while other parties visited Lincoln Park, just west of the Superior city limits, the Republican River valley west of the city, and the city cemetery north of Superior, to study the woodland birds. The several field parties gathered at 12:30 P. M. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Shaw, where luncheon was served at 1:00 P. M. Immediately after lunch a record of the Nightingale's song, made in England, was played by Mrs. H. C. Johnston, and a group photograph of the assembled field parties was taken, following which the composite list was compiled. This list totalled 114 birds, as follows: Common Pied-billed Grebe, Eastern Green Heron, American Bittern, Gadwall, Baldpate, American Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Northern Ruddy Duck, Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), Swainson Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Bob-white (subsp.), Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Sora, Northern American Coot, Northern Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew (subsp.) (near Nelson), Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson Phalarope, Franklin Gull, Forster Tern, American Black Tern, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern Great Horned Owl, 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, Least Flycatcher, Saskatchewan Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Common Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Eastern Cliff Swallow, Northern Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), Western House Wren, Bewick Wren (subsp.), Eastern Mockingbird (!), Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Swainson Thrush, Northern Gray-cheeked Thrush, Eastern Common Bluebird, Migrant Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Northern Bell Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler (subsp.), Eastern Myrtle Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Grinnell Common Water-Thrush, Western Maryland Yellow-throat (!), Chat (subsp.), American Redstart, English

House Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Thick-billed Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bullock Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird (subsp.), Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Northern Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch (subsp.), Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, Arctic Spotted Towhee, Lark Bunting (near Nelson), Savannah Sparrow (subsp.), Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Lark Sparrow (!), Eastern Chipping Sparrow (!), Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Eastern White-crowned Sparrow, Gambel Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow (subsp.). Four subspecific identifications made on a satisfactorily definite basis are marked in the above list with an (!).

Among the outstanding observations of the day were the identifying of hybrids between the Rose-breasted and Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks and between the Baltimore and Bullock Orioles. One of the field parties was resting on some steps at the south end of the mill dam across the Republican River west of Superior, when a grosbeak was seen that looked odd at even the first glance, having the general appearance of a male Black-headed Grosbeak, but with the white bill characteristic of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Soon the entire party, which consisted of Mesdames A. A. Adams and G. W. Trine, Miss M. Caryle Sylla, and Messrs. Adams, V. W. Binderup, Glenn Viehmeyer, and H. E. Weakly, was carefully studying the obviously hybrid bird, as it sat in a tree in the full sunlight. In general size it resembled the Black-headed Grosbeak, but the entire head, back and tail appeared solid black, as in the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, without the cinnamon shoulder patch and back markings of the Black-headed Grosbeak, and the bill was white; there were prominent wing spots, about the size of a dime and practically round, the upper one of which apparently had a yellowish tinge; and the breast and sides were a rusty or buff color, close to the normal coloration of the Black-headed Grosbeak and without any of the bright rose color of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, or very distinct suffusion of it, fading out to a gray on the belly and under tail coverts. The bird was not heard to sing, but its call note was like that of the Black-headed Grosbeak. This hybrid, in its lack of the dilution of the normal buffy-cinnamon breast color of the Black-headed Grosbeak with the rose-red of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, so as to form a dull buffy-red color, apparently differed from other recorded hybrids between these two species, as previously reported (cf. *antea*, iv, pp. 37-40 and 82).

The hybrid between the Baltimore and Bullock Oriole was discovered by Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Swenk in some trees near the main building in Lincoln Park. It had the song and general appearance of the Baltimore Oriole, but the usual brilliant orange color of that species was largely replaced with a lemon-yellow, while the normally solid black head color was broken by numerous orange-yellow feathers in the line over the eye (and also a few scattering ones on the crown), and the yellow of the breast invaded, brokenly, the lower cheeks and the posterior part of the rictal stripe. The bird corresponded quite closely to figures 2 or 3 of the plate of intergradant Baltimore and Bullock Orioles recently published by G. M. Sutton in *The Auk* (lv, pl. I, and p. 3, January, 1938), from specimens taken in May, 1937, in western Oklahoma. It was later observed by Mesdames A. M. Brooking and Dorr Mahoney of Hastings, and others.

During the day a nest of the Black-capped Chickadee containing five young birds was found, and several pairs were noted collecting looper caterpillars in favorable localities for nesting, with little doubt intended to feed young in the nest. F. W. Haecker found a nest with eggs of the European Starling in a woodpecker's hole. Two nests of the Ring-necked Common Pheasant were also found containing, respectively, fifteen and sixteen eggs.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Nebraska bird lovers were quite generally gratified to learn in newspaper reports emanating under date of July 21 from Secretary Frank B. O'Connell of the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, that he had just been informed that on the request of the Commission, the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture had barred the shooting of Mourning Doves in Nebraska for the 1938-39 hunting season. This action was verified officially by the Bureau in its Service and Regulatory Announcement (No. 92) relative to the 1938-39 season, issued in August. Mourning Doves, therefore, are at present safe from legal slaughter, and violation of the closed season declared upon them makes the offender liable not only to a \$10.00 state fine, but also to a \$10.00 to \$500.00 Federal fine, under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Acts. Last spring, in our discussion of "The Mourning Dove Case" (*antea*, vi, pp. 23-24), the hope was expressed that our Commission would come out for a closed season on Mourning Doves in Nebraska. Gratifyingly, and to its credit, it has done so, and the 1938-39 season is closed to dove shooting in this state. We now express the further hope that this action will form a precedent for the years to come, and that the closing of the season on Mourning Doves will become the permanent policy for Nebraska.

Our President, Dr. George E. Hudson, has newly become Assistant Professor of Zoology and Curator of the Museum at Washington State College at Pullman, effective September 1. Dr. Hudson's decision to tender his resignation at the University of Nebraska and accept the appointment at Washington State College was made quite suddenly late in July, only a little more than two months after his having assumed the N. O. U. Presidency, yet already he had been thinking constructively on N. O. U. plans for the current year, including the appointing of a Nominating Committee, to enable it to take plenty of time carefully to survey the field as a basis for bringing in its recommendations for 1939-40 N. O. U. officers. The loss of Dr. Hudson's direct personal leadership during his period of Presidency will be much missed, but his helpful advice will continue to be available to the Executive Committee until the election of his successor at our next annual meeting.

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When the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was organized, on December 16, 1899, sixty-six persons had indicated their desire to join the society. Sixty-three of these completed the affiliation and became Charter Members of the N. O. U. During the years to follow, the Charter Membership roll steadily became reduced by the decease, removal from the state and resignation of the persons constituting it, until last year only three of these remained on the N. O. U. active membership list. One of these three was Mr. A. L. Haecker, of Lincoln, and it now becomes the sad duty of your Editor here to record Mr. Haecker's sudden and tragic passing. About midnight of August 26, the automobile in which he was being driven by his son David to his summer home at Madeline Island, near LaPoint, Wisconsin, plunged over an embankment south of Jordan, Minnesota, causing injuries to Mr. Haecker from which he died several hours later. Mr. Haecker was a teacher of dairying at the College of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska from 1896 to 1911, and your Editor was privileged to be associated with him on the College of Agriculture faculty during the latter part of this period. Mr. Haecker always had a keen interest in birds and the out of doors, though his numerous business and official duties, most recently as Chief of the dairy and creamery inspection division of the State Department of Agriculture, prevented his devoting as much time to this avocation as he would have liked. All who were present at the last annual meeting at Superior will recall his jovial presence and he will be much missed at our meetings of the future.

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ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE  
NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Organized December 16, 1899

*Retiring President*

1899	Lincoln, December 16.....	Lawrence Bruner
1901	Omaha, January 12.....	I. S. Trostler
1902	Lincoln, February 1.....	E. H. Barbour
1903	Lincoln, January 24.....	J. M. Bates
1904	Lincoln, January 30.....	F. H. Shoemaker
1905	Omaha, December 31.....	R. H. Wolcott
1906	Lincoln, December 29.....	Wilson Tout
1907	Lincoln, January 19.....	S. R. Towne
1908	Bellevue, May 8.....	M. H. Swenk
1909	Lincoln, May 14.....	August Eiche
1910	Peru, April 29.....	H. B. Duncanson
1911	Lincoln, May 5.....	Louis Sessions
1912	Lincoln, May 10.....	H. B. Lowry
1913	Lincoln, May 9.....	D. C. Hilton
1914	Lincoln, May 15.....	Lawrence Bruner
1915	Omaha, May 7.....	T. C. Stephens
1916	Omaha, May 5.....	R. W. Dawson
1917	Lincoln, May 4.....	R. H. Wolcott
1918	Omaha, May 10.....	C. E. Mickel
1919	Hastings, May 9.....	A. M. Brooking
1920	Lincoln, May 14.....	C. A. Black
1921	Omaha, May 13.....	H. B. Lowry
1922	Lincoln, May 19.....	H. Hapeman
1923	Fairbury, May 11.....	Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon
1924	Lincoln, May 9.....	R. H. Wolcott
1925	Superior, May 8.....	R. H. Wolcott
1926	Omaha, May 14.....	Mrs. C. W. McCaskill
1927	Hastings, May 13.....	C. K. Hart
1928	Lincoln, May 11.....	L. H. Watson
1929	Sioux City, Iowa, May 10.....	Mrs. A. H. Jones
1930	Omaha, May 16.....	Miss Mary St. Martin
1931	Lincoln, May 15.....	F. G. Collins
1932	Hastings, May 13.....	L. O. Horsky
1933	Fairbury, May 12.....	Miss Susie Callaway
1934	Omaha, May 18.....	Mrs. L. H. McKillip
1935	Sioux City, Iowa, May 10.....	Miss Mary Ellsworth
1936	North Platte, May 15.....	L. M. Gates
1937	Hastings, May 21.....	Mrs. H. C. Johnston
1938	Superior, May 13.....	H. E. Weakly