
THE FLICKER

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The Flicker is the official organ of the Minnesota Bird Club and is issued bi-monthly at a subscription price of one dollar per year, payable to the secretary, Charles Evans, 3250 47th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Occasionally we have been asked the questions, "Why do you study birds? What good are they anyway? What on earth do you see in them?", and others with similiar sentiments. And formerly we were wont to rationalize and opine that, "Well, they are economically beneficial. The world couldn't do without them. They eat bugs," etc., etc.

On looking back over our experiences we discover that we were interested in birds long before we knew (or cared) whether a cuckoo eats tent caterpillars or strawberries, or whether a Red-tailed Hawk preys upon Meadow Mice or Plymouth Rocks. And then we consider that at least two groups of organisms, bacteria and insects, without a doubt have much greater potentialities for good or evil than do birds. So if economic interest were our stimulus we should logically be avidly soaking up information about Staphylococcus or Odonata instead of spending our time pondering on the differences between a Least and a Traill's Flycatcher.

So we have reached the decision that when we are next asked, "Why under the sun do you study birds?" we are going to say, "Because they are interesting and beautiful and because we enjoy it", and we think that should be reason enough.

People study music and art and literature because it makes life richer and more worth living. Most bird-lovers study birds for the same reasons, but bird-lovers somehow have been ashamed to admit it, claiming, instead, that birds are worthy of study because they eat grasshoppers, mosquitoes, moths, and a thousand and one other things which make life on earth all too interesting for us humans.

If birds were economically worthless we still think they would interest us, and in that case we would have to admit that we were prompted by a love for their beauty, song and interesting habits. Why not do that now?

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Mrs. Frances Davidson

The club has a right to be proud of its Christmas census for 1929. The area covered included parts of Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott Carver, Polk and Goodhue Counties together with a bit of Wisconsin and the time included was December 22nd to 29th.

The following is a summary of the reports submitted by sixteen members of the club:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Pied-billed Grebe (at Red Wing) | 21. Horned Lark |
| 2. American Merganser | 22. Blue Jay |
| 3. Ring-necked Duck | 23. Canada Jay |
| 4. Golden-eye | 24. Crow |
| 5. Wilson Snipe | 25. Evening Grosbeak |
| 6. Bob White | 26. Pine Grosbeak |
| 7. Ruffed Grouse | 27. Redpoll |
| 8. Ring-necked Pheasant | 28. Purple Finch |
| 9. Rough-legged Hawk | 29. Goldfinch |
| 10. Barn Owl | 30. White-throated Sparrow
(Shakopee) |
| 11. Short-eared Owl | 31. Tree Sparrow |
| 12. Barred Owl | 32. Slate-colored Junco |
| 13. Screech Owl | 33. Cardinal |
| 14. Great Horned Owl | 34. Northern Shrike |
| 15. Snowy Owl | 35. Brown Creeper |
| 16. Hairy Woodpecker | 36. White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 17. Downy Woodpecker | 37. Black-capped Chickadee |
| 18. Pileated Woodpecker | 38. Robin |
| 19. Red-headed Woodpecker | |
| 20. Red-bellied Woodpecker | |

As a subscriber to The Flicker I claim the right to add the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker and the Snow Bunting, bringing the number of species to forty and the number of individuals to approximately fourteen hundred.

Mr. Swedenborg saw a Golden-crowned Kinglet along the creek near France Avenue on the eighth of December and as I saw it again on the second of January it really belongs in the list.

This list includes three species of ducks, four species of other game birds, six each of owls and woodpeckers, and eight species of finches. In the entire territory covered only one purple finch was found; there was an unusual scarcity of juncos, and a notable absence of blackbirds.

Of special interest is the record of the Canada Jay. The following paragraph is quoted from the January, Auk.

"An account of the unusual movement or migration of the Canada Jays that has been taking place since last summer and is still going on is being prepared by Harrison F. Lewis, National Parks of Canada, Ottawa, Canada who will appreciate any information, however scanty, relating to the subject."

Minneapolis, Minnesota

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE SIXTIES

Alden Rissor

It is so seldom now that one has an opportunity to hear of our wildlife as it existed in the early sixties from the observer himself (or in this case, herself) that it seems to me very fitting to record here the recollections of such an observer.

Mrs. J. L. Garlock came to Wells, Minnesota, a point almost due south of the Twin Cities about seven miles north of the Iowa line (really 18 miles), in 1859. Her recollections about birds are in some cases slightly hazy due to the differences in the names we give the birds from the ones that were used then, but she remembers the birds themselves very vividly, and in most cases when there was confusion over names the situation was easily cleared by colored plates of the birds. Needless to say, this country was then all wild and primitive, mostly prairie, but there were considerable forested areas, and what woods existed consisted of heavy timber. There being no schools the children were outdoors almost all the time and had excellent opportunity to study nature.

The most interesting birds which Mrs. Garlock described were the cranes. Flocks of a hundred or more Sandhill Cranes would frequently light on the corn and stubble fields in September. They would light cautiously, circling around first, then they began to feed awhile, after which they would all stop and dance. She vividly recalls their graceful bowing of heads and flapping of wings, and was very interested when I told her that these habits have often been recorded in books. Although they didn't kill many, they always had a crane's wing in the house as a fancy duster. As civilization increased the cranes decreased, and by 1870 they were rare. A number of times Whooping Cranes alit with the others.

Large numbers of Canada Geese nested in the prairie country for many years. One time Mrs. Garlock's brother brought home two little goslings, which she raised to maturity. They became so fond of her that they were almost pests, for they would walk into the house, and since their long necks reached higher than the table they helped themselves to whatever there was there. They followed her for miles when she went out, but they didn't like to have any one else around, so they frequently bit the other members of the family, which was no joke to them.

Prairie Chickens were so abundant that almost every little bush in the prairie, even half a block from the house, concealed one of their nests. Once one flew into the pantry window.

The three shore birds which were the most common were the Wilson's Snipe, Killdeer and Upland Plover. Of course I was most interested in the last. They found many nests, but they killed only few of these birds. The people relied much on game in general for food, but very few killed wontonly for sport of killing.

Swans passed over and lit on the ponds in the fall, but they

were never common, and they were never seen in the nesting season indicating that the Trumpeter Swan must have not been common in that part of the state.

When asked about Passenger Pigeons Mrs. Garlock replied that she doesn't remember any herself in Minnesota, although she can recall a few flocks which darkened the sky in Wisconsin, before her family moved to Wells.

She recalls spending much time every winter catching some of the vast numbers of Snow Buntings which came with the blizzards, by putting out grain and dropping a wire netting over them by means of a stick with string attached. "But then we let them go again; we did it only for fun", she said.

The only birds which were shot for other purposes than for food were the blackbirds. The Yellow-headed Blackbirds were especially destructive as they were more numerous than Red-wings.

St. Paul, Minnesota

THE HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE IN MINNESOTA

Gustav Swanson

Attempts by interested sportsmen to introduce the Hungarian or Gray Partridge (Perdix perdix) into Minnesota have received much publicity from the daily press, but the information given is not often definite, and only seldom are statements made as to the success of the attempts.

Mr. George W. McCullough, at present Minnesota Commissioner of Game and Fish, has from the time of its inception been intimately identified with the movement, and perhaps knows better than any one else the true status of the bird in Minnesota, and the following information has been culled from a letter written for another purpose by Mr. McCullough to Dr. T. S. Roberts with whose kind permission it is used.

In 1926 and 1927 the Hennepin County Sportsmen's Club in cooperation with other sportsmen's clubs in the state bought a total of 4094 birds and liberated them in 35 different plantings. In 1928 the work was taken up by the Game and Fish Commission and since then this department has bought a total of 4462 birds and released them in 54 different plantings. From reports received Mr. McCullough has been able to ascertain that the birds are now quite common in Lyon, Redwood, Murray and Brown Counties, all in the southwestern part of the state. In Lyon County 3000 birds were reported.

In the March 1929 number of the Wilson Bulletin, Mr. Charles J. Spiker in a paper on the Hungarian Partridge in Iowa states that the birds has spread from northeastern Iowa into Minnesota in Jackson, Nobles and Rock Counties. (STRNAD: sounds like he means from northwestern Iowa).

Minneapolis, Minnesota

SNOWY OWLS AT SHAKOPEE

Donald Fischer

This winter is a remarkable one for the observers at Shakopee, because of the extraordinary number of irregular winter visitants noted. Redpolls and Northern Shrikes have been considerably more abundant than ordinarily, and the last two weeks in December added the Snowy Owl. At the end of December 1929, I knew of five individuals in the close vicinity of Shakopee, three of which were shot. The old-timers around here state that it has been many years since they last saw the great, white owl. This is the first season that I have seen them in this locality (or any other locality for that matter).

One of the owls frequented a hay meadow bordering a lake just south of the town. It was first noted there on Christmas and was finally shot there on January 3rd. I say "finally", because every day several persons were out "gunning" for it. That it managed to survive as long as it did is a tribute to its sagacity plus an eyesight in the daylight that is not usually attributed to owls. It seemed to know the range of a 12 guage shot-gun; it alighted only in places where it could and did keep a vigilance in all directions. A small boy with a .22 rifle was the immediate cause of its death, but only after many trials.

The food supply is very abundant in this meadow; it would have to be in order to detain a creature that was harrassed. The bird would sit on a haystack or on an elevated stretch of the meadow and scan the surroundings. Its body would remain in the same position for an hour or more, but its head with its glaring, yellow eyes was never still for more than a few seconds. It did not turn in a regular manner, but swung suddenly from one direction to another, so that one could not tell which way the owl would look next. Thus, the observer, with a telescope behind a nearby haystack, was sometimes caught off guard. A movement then, and the owl would leave for a different part of the field, necessitating another careful stalk.

The study of this own was well adapted for the use of the telescope. I used a 25x glass. Very often one could not approach the owl very closely because of the absence of cover; then the 'scope afforded a good view. But when able to sneak up to within 100 feet, the effect was like looking the "White Tiger of the Air" right in the face. It was a most enjoyable experience to rest comfortably in a pile of hay, while watching the actions of the arctic visitor, made very conspicuous because of the absence of snow.

I saw it pick up a Meadow Mouse after a hundred foot sally from its post. It gulped the mouse down (a very large one, too) and then returned to its lookout. On two occasions, it was observed to fly toward a hidden Ring-necked Pheasant. About the same time that the owl took to the air, the pheasant would break from the cover and fly directly toward the oncoming owl. As they were about to meet, the owl thrust out its talons, but the pheasant with a remarkable sort of side-slip was able to avoid them. The owl made no effort to turn around and keep up the chase, but returned to the ground to continue its vigil. This was noted twice in the same afternoon by a group of several members of the Minnesota Bird Club. Had the

pheasant flown away from the owl it could have been caught, as the Snowy Owl is known to catch ducks and grouse on the wing. I wonder if the act of the pheasant in flying toward the owl was intended by it as the best means of escape. The youngster, who shot the owl, told me that he had seen it hop off a haystack on to a hen pheasant below. It carried the hen off as he approached.

The Snowy Owl is rarely seen far from the ground. It is interesting to note that this owl was seen on the top of a telephone pole.

A few pellets were picked up on some of the hay-cocks frequented by the owl. They were examined by C. Cottam of the Biological Survey and were found to contain the remains of:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>No. of Individuals</u>
Meadow Mouse (<i>Microtus Pennsylvanicus</i>) - - - - -	14
American Coot (<i>Fulica Americana</i>) - - - - -	2
Rusty Blackbird (<i>Euphagus Carolinus</i>) - - - - -	1

The weather at this time of the year was very mild. The Coot were probably cripples left from the hunting season, which are frequently found late in the year. A few feathers, wings, and feet of Coot were also found. It is queer that no pheasant remains were noted.

GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS

Christmas Census of Mammals: A few of the members of the club, while making their Christmas census of birds, incidentally noted a few mammals and their mammal records have been pooled to make the Christmas census of mammals which follows. The numbers both of individuals and of species are so much smaller than the numbers of birds for several reasons. First, there really are less species of mammals than there are birds; secondly, mammals are harder to see because of their terrestrial habits and because many of them are either under the ground or under the snow much of the time; and thirdly, the various members are not as keen in noting mammals as they are in seeing birds because they are less interested in mammals. The following members participated:

- Sterling Brackett, Red Wing - December 23rd
- Charles Evans and Gustav Swanson, Fort Snelling - December 25th
- Gustav Swanson and Venzel Peterson, Harris - December 23rd

The following mammals were noted:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO. OF INDIVIDUALS</u>
Cottontail Rabbit (<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>) - - -	5
Jackrabbit (<i>Lepus townsendii</i>) - - - - -	1
Muskrat (<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>) - - - - -	2
Fox Squirrel (<i>Sciurus niger</i>) - - - - -	3
Gray Squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>) - - - - -	20
Red Squirrel (<i>Sciurus hudsonicus</i>) - - - - -	15
Meadow Mouse (<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>) - - - -	6 (two caught alive, one found dead, having been killed by N. Shrike.
Deer Mouse (<i>Peromyscus leucopus novemboracensis</i>)	1 (found after having been impaled by Northern Shrike.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO. OF INDIVIDUALS</u>
Mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>) - - - - - 3 (All trapped, having been taken within three days).	3
Weasel (<i>Citognanini mustela</i>) - - - - - 3 (All trapped having been taken within 3 days).	3

TOTAL: 10 species and 58 individuals

On January 3rd, a Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*) which had been found dead was brought into the Museum at the University. Gustav Swanson, Minneapolis, Minn.

ANOTHER CANADA JAY RECORD: On January 12th, as I was walking through a hilly oak grove near White Bear Lake, I heard a Blue Jay give a very squeaky note, and a minute later two more began to scream very loudly as they do when mobbing an owl. I hurried to the spot to look for the owl, but the jays had stopped screaming, and a large gray bird flew near me. I then recognized it as a Canada Jay. After stopping to examine me, it flew on with the two Blue Jays with which it was. This is, as far as I know, a new locality for this species.

--- Alden Risser, St. Paul, Minn.

RECORDS FROM HASTINGS, MINN.: The following birds were seen near Hastings on the dates indicated. The December 22nd records were included in the club's Christmas Census.

December 22nd -- total of 13 species including: 30-40 American Mergansers, 2 Ring-necked Ducks, 200-250 Goldeneyes.

January 2nd -- total of 16 species including: 30 American Mergansers, 1 Mallard, 17 Quail, 5 Goldfinches.

January 12th -- total of 11 species including: 15-20 American Mergansers, 1 Ring-necked Duck, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, and 1 Brewer's Blackbird.

The Mississippi River was open for a short distance at Hastings, which accounts for the presence of the waterfowl.

--- Jerome H. Stoudt, Hastings, Minn.

A NOTE ON THE MARSH HAWK: There is a good deal of discussion at present as to the economic importance of the Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*), and in this connection the following incidents may be of interest.

Among my records is the following notation for October 25, 1927. "A Marsh Hawk flew across the road in the midst of a flock of about one hundred Lapland Longspurs that seemed to be chasing it. The Hawk did not try to catch any of the longspurs but flew swiftly toward a nearby marsh." That longspurs should be chasing the Marsh Hawk sounds unusual, but that seemed to be the case.

Last spring, while out with Sterling Brackett, I found a freshly killed Marsh Hawk that had evidently been struck by a car. Examination of its stomach content revealed the skull and bill and the wings and feet of a small bird, probably a warbler.

--- Charles Evans, Minneapolis, Minn.

The Florida Naturalist for October 1929 contains an article and photograph by Sam Grimes, one of our members who has left Minnesota to live in his native state, Florida. We are very sorry to see Mr. Grimes leave Minnesota but we know he will continue the good work in Florida.

Volume I, of The Flicker had each number paged separately; this volume and future ones will be paged consecutively as is done in almost all periodicals. (STRAND: This revision has carried consecutive numbers in Volume I, for purposes of indexing the Flicker).

The annual convention of the Wilson Ornithological Club at Des Moines, Iowa, during the holidays, held in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was attended by three Minnesota men: W. J. Breckenridge, Donald Fischer, and Gustav Swanson. A two day program of very interesting and instructive papers was much enjoyed as was the privilege of meeting many enthusiastic ornithologists. Interesting features of the meeting were a number of reels of fine bird moving pictures, and the best of these were, perhaps, Captain C. W. R. Knight's reel of Golden Eagle pictures and Herbert L. Stoddard's two reels of Florida water birds.

On Sunday, January 26th, the first of a series of lectures sponsored by the Museum of the University of Minnesota was given. Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell University gave an extremely interesting and instructive talk, illustrated with colored slides and motion pictures, depicting June of the Labrador Coast. The inhabitants and the character of the country were described but the avian life received the most attention. The audience was introduced to the interesting birds that colonize the cliffs and the off-shore islets of the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. A reel of movies showing the habits of the Ruffed Grouse was also shown. The feature of this reel was the remarkable photography which clearly portrayed the courtship of the male, including the drumming.

On the next day two reels of motion pictures were shown to a group of students at the Museum. In addition to the grouse reel, there were some views of nesting Duck Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Pied-billed Grebes. The Pied-billed Grebe strip is a model of perfection in out-door motion picture photography.

A reception for Dr. Allen was held at the Apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Wolford in the Leamington Hotel in the afternoon of January 27th.

BOOK NOTES

David Starr Jordan's, "Manual of the Vertebrates" has just appeared (1929) in its thirteenth edition and is thoroughly revised and brought up to date. It is a book which should be in the hands of all interested in nature in general for it includes all species and sub-species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes found in northeastern United States and eastern Canada. A valuable feature of the work is the definition under each form of the meaning of its scientific name. Often we wonder what such and such a scientific name means, and have no way of finding out, but this book gives the derivation and meaning of all scientific names used.

G.S.

"Birds of Massachusetts", by Edward Howe Forbush, Volume III has appeared, completing this pretentious work. J. B. May has written a biography of Mr. Forbush and has prepared for publication the manuscript which was practically finished when Mr. Forbush died. The majority of the plates in this volume are by Allan Brooks as Louis Agassiz Fuertes had finished only a few for the third volume. Volumes I and II of this work are so well known that further comment on the third volume is unnecessary other than to say that it upholds the same high standard begun in the other volumes.

G. S.

THE FLICKER

VOLUME II, NUMBER 2 Minneapolis, Minnesota March-April, 1930

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Bird students in search of wildfowl have been disappointed this year because of the open season on muskrats. Marshes and lakes, which last year were covered with ducks, are patrolled so regularly and carefully this year by muskrat trappers that the wildfowl cannot find a place where they may rest and feed in peace. At least, this is the case in the vicinity of the Twin Cities. We hope that the harrassed ducks are more fortunate in their search for open water in other parts of the state than they are here.

We have no solution to offer for these lamentable conditions. Undoubtedly muskrats are too common and should be held in check. But it is a pity that the waterfowl must suffer with the rats. The ducks have suffered in the past because many of their breeding and feeding places have been drained and destroyed. Now when the trappers so disturb the ducks on the few remaining sloughs we can easily imagine that finding food is no simple matter for a duck.

In the Fall the hunters are forbidden to go out into open water and scare up the ducks; but in the spring, when ducks need just as much food and rest, the trappers are allowed to disturb the birds from morning until night. What are the reasons for not having the trapping season open earlier in the year and close before the Spring migration of ducks sets in? Such an arrangement would certainly be more satisfactory to us and to the waterfowl.

NOTICE

In order that a composite list of the spring migration may be published in the next Flicker, all members and subscribers should kindly send a copy of both their first and last dates for each bird to Alden Risser, 1012 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

HINTS FOR THE FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF MINNESOTA HAWKS

Twenty species of hawks have been found in Minnesota, but several of these are either extinct here now or so rare as to be considered accidental. The following are field marks for the Minnesota hawks.

TURKEY VULTURE: Large size; soars much; black with grayish sheen on under side of primaries and secondaries; wings long and broad but narrower than those of eagles; when soaring the longest five or six primaries show distinctly; tail rounded, not spread fan-wise as is the tail of Buteos and eagles; head small, has appearance of being pulled in, red in adults, but this visible only under favorable conditions.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: very rare in Minnesota; instantly recognizable by long and forked tail.

MARSH HAWK: medium sized; little larger than a crow; long and slender tail and wings; flight graceful, gull-like; best field mark is the upper tail covert which is white; general color of the male light bluish gray, of the female brownish.

THE EAGLES: large size; soar much; wings broad, long, with primaries wide spread; tail spread fan-wise.

GOLDEN EAGLE: adult uniform black or very dark brown below; immature birds, which are more common, have a white spot at the base of the primaries, and the tail largely white with an indefinite broad black terminal band.

BALD EAGLE: adults unmistakable with their white head and tail; immature birds - under side of wing largely grayish toward body; tail possibly darker at tip, but never with the definite terminal band of the young Golden Eagle; difficult to satisfactorily distinguish from the adult Golden Eagle in the field.

OSPRAY: large size; seen most near water; wings more or less "crooked" with a black patch at the bend of the wing; wings flexible giving flight a fancied resemblance to that of the Great Blue Heron; underparts largely white.

The remaining Minnesota hawks fall into three quite well defined groups, the Accipiters, the Buteos or buzzard hawks, and the Falcons.

ACCIPTERS are swift flying hawks which characteristically fly by alternating a few rapid wings-beats with a short period of sailing; soar little; wings short, rounded; tail long, slender; include Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk and the Goshawk.

THE BUTEOS are instantly distinguished by their habit of soaring much; short, broad tail spread fan-wise; wings broad, rounded. Included are the Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk.

FALCONS have long, pointed wings; fly swiftly and gracefully with quick strokes; tail shorter than in Accipiters, not spread. Includes Duck Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Gyrfalcon, and the Prairie Falcon.

Now each of the hawks in these three groups will be considered separately with regard to the marks which separate it from others in its group.

THE ACCIPITERS

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: length about one foot; distinguished from the Cooper's Hawk only by the small size and the tail being square instead of rounded. Large females often difficult to distinguish from small male Cooper's.

COOPER'S HAWK: distinguished from Sharp-Shinned by rounded tail and larger size; adults have a darker cap than Sharp-shinned; adults barred below with reddish, so not to be confused with Goshawk, but immature birds resemble immature Goshawks very closely, being a streaked brown, and in the field large female Cooper's Hawks (imm.) are indistinguishable from small immature male Goshawks.

GOSHAWK: largest of the Accipiters; found in Minnesota (except extreme northern part) only in winter; general color of the adults bluish-gray, of immature birds brown.

THE BUTEOS

RED-TAILED HAWK: large size; soars much with little flapping of the wings; adults show red tail when wheeling, or if sun shines brightly red can be seen directly through the tail; immature birds usually have dark spots congregated to form a distinct band across lower breast.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: adults have black tail with five or six narrow white bands, and underparts reddish brown, unmistakable; cry a shrill "tee-urr"; immature birds distinguishable by a light buffy area at base of primaries, this is visible if top of wing can be seen and sometimes from below, sometimes visible even on perching birds if primaries are

permitted to sag down from beneath secondaries (Breckenridge); also identified by lack of distinct breast band found in the immature Red-tail; difficult in many cases to separate from immature Red-tailed Hawk.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: adults marked on tail with two to four light colored broad bands which show from below; call-note similar to note of Wood Pewee; large part of underpart of wing is white, unbarred, in direct contrast with the black tips.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: the best mark in any plumage is a considerable unmarked buffy area on the under surface of the wing; normal adults have white throat and reddish-brown band across the breast; bird usually quite tame, has habit of perching low, as on fence posts; tail light gray showing a whitish base; normally found in Minnesota only on the western prairies.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: white near base of tail; "best mark a large area of unmarked silvery white on the under surface of the wing extending from near the tip along the after edge almost to the body" (Hoffman), this white is in sharp contrast with the dark area along the former edge of the wing, and a black patch at the base of the outer primaries; flight is heavy; black axillar patches a good mark; immature birds, most common, have a broad black belt across the abdomen.

FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG: western; basal half of the tail or more white or whitish; two areas of light color on the upper surface of the brown wings; dark flanks show in flight as a V-shaped mark by the feet.

THE FALCONS

GYRFALCON and PRAIRIE FALCONS: too rare to be identified in the field.

DUCK HAWK: large size; black mustache marks; dark, almost black underparts.

PIGEON HAWK: distinguished from Sparrow Hawk by lack of the reddish in back and tail; from the Sharp-shinned by the characteristic long, pointed wings of the falcons.

SPARROW HAWK: reddish brown back and tail; black face marks.

Several of the hawks (Red-tailed, Broad-winged, Swainson's, and the Rough-legged) have dark or melanistic phases in which part or all of the bird may be black.

Books by Hoffman, Taverner, Forbush, and Griscom were found to be most useful in compiling these field marks.

--- Gustav Swanson, Minneapolis

THREE DAYS IN FLORIDA

Alden Risser

Three days in Florida are not sufficient for one who hopes to see as many as possible of numerous Floridan birds which are foreign to his own state; and the possibilities of three days are further shortened when the observer's headquarters are located within a fair sized city like Jacksonville, not to mention the fact that these days occurred in Florida's dullest season for the bird lover, almost mid-summer.

However, my short visit there proved quite fruitful. The first thing I saw was the city of Jacksonville, bedecked with palms, palmettos, and little else. These are rather attractive at first, just as they are to one who sees them in a green house, but in only three days I became so tired of them that I wondered why the people who live there and see them every day of their lives admire them as they do. However, the beautiful gray or Spanish moss hanging gracefully from nine out of ten of the deciduous trees is very attractive.

After asking several people the quickest way out of the city, there by making them think that I had just robbed a bank and wanted to get out in the wilderness to conceal myself, I finally reached a little patch of the so-called Florida woods. Here I met several new acquaintances, some being very similiar to some of our own birds, such as the Fish Crow and the Carolina Chickadee. Since these Chickadees were in the tree tops, the only way I distinguished them from our Black-capped Chickadees was by the fact that the latter is not found in Florida. I also met there two casual Minnesota birds, the Turkey Vulture in great numbers, and the Carolina Wren, which I had also seen once at Fort Snelling. Other interesting birds were the Summer Tanager and the Yellow-throated Warbler.

That afternoon found me for the first time on the ocean beach, where I met the Brown Pelican and the Black Skimmer in addition to a sight I have often looked for in Minnesota, a pure white Crow. At first sight I thought it was a gull, but closer observation of its manner of flight, and most of all its "caws" proved its identity. I was told that this Jacksonville beach is almost equal to the more famous Daytona beach, and I do not doubt it, for I do not see how one could be better. Shortly after slack water the beach was almost a block wide and smoother and as solid as a concrete road, but much more comfortable for driving; no wonder it is used as a race track.

The next day I was again lucky enough to be given a ride, this time through marshy and swampy districts to a wild, tropical, impenetrable jungle! But the marsh proved more fruitful bird-wise than the jungle, for the latter turned out to be a mere orchard-like grove of trees with absolutely no undergrowth of any kind except palmettos. These, I must admit, were rather thick in a few places, but in no place did they compare with the density of a fair piece of woods in northern Minnesota.

As I said, the trip through the marshy districts was more fruitful. I saw six kinds of herons within an hour or two, mostly Great Blue and Little Blue Herons. I saw several egrets and many Louis-

iana Herons, but the former were not as common as the people seemed to think they were, for most of the birds which they called egrets were young birds, they they were really the young of the Little Blue Heron, thought to be young egrets because of their pure white plumage. On the other hand, the adult Little Blue Herons were thought to be the young of the Great Blue Heron. Green Herons were also common. The most interesting sight of the day to me was that of two Wood Ibises feeding in a swamp not far from the "jungle". On the way home I saw a few Willets and later a large bird trying to creep along the roadside. I got out and found that one of its wings was almost detached from the body and that it was quite helpless and suffering, so I put it out of its misery and identified it as an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron. It is in general very similar to the young Black-crowned Night Heron, but darker, browner, with thinner white streaks on the upperparts.

My last morning in Florida was spent in St. Augustine, within whose limits I met the Gray Kingbird and Ground Dove. The Ground Dove is a common and interesting little bird with a short, square studdy tail. A mental picture of a Mourning Dove with the end half of its tail clipped off is quite ungainly, but its little cousin does not look out of proportion. I also saw, to my surprise, a lone female Gadwall. Then came the greatest surprise of my stay in Florida with the exception of the Wood Ibises. I was walking along the ocean shore and saw two large, black objects on the sand, which I took for rocks, but as I approached, up they flew showing white in addition to the black, most conspicuous in a patch in the wing corresponding to a duck's speculum, and displaying a large, very long, bright red bill. They were American Oystercatchers.

-- St. Paul, Minnesota

THE CLOWN OF THE NORTH WOODS

Donald Fischer

(An account of some experiences with the Canada Jay while with a surveying and prospecting party in Northern Manitoba.)

After a hard morning's work in the bush the axe and brush hook are laid down and the pack sack is opened for the simple but welcome lunch that it contains. This is the signal for the appearance of a pair or more of Canada Jays. In they come, an unheralded and as silently as a snowflake. There is something strange about their ever prompt and reliable arrival; for on most days, while at work, one will not see or hear Jays close by; but at meal time they are always on hand for their share. They hop around you at arm's length eagerly watching you and waiting for any scraps that may come their way, sometimes blundering right into the smoldering campfire, when all records for their quick take-off are smashed. Put a piece of bacon or biscuit on your head and they will take it. They will hop upon your leg or arm without any coaxing, if one remains quiet for a short time.

Lumberjacks are said to have much good natured fun with this bird; an old favorite is to make a tip-up by placing a pole over a log. The down side is then baited and when a "Whiskey Jack" alights on the pole, the opposite end is struck with a heavy blow with a maul. The jay is shot skyward like a stone; the force of the air holds its wings tight against its body and prevents the bird

from checking its speed.

At the base camp the jay is no longer a pleasing entertainer, but earns for himself the name of "Camp Robber". As soon as the cook turned his back on the table one or more of the gray rascals would slip under the awning and help himself, spilling the sugar, dirtying the butter, and getting into the milk and the prunes. The jay soon had his hunger appeased, but did not stop at this point; everything that could be carried off was taken away and, no doubt, cached for future need. And when there are fifteen or twenty attending a camp, there are always several around to take whatever they can get. A pancake or piece of bread is common booty, but once I was really astounded to see one make off with a quarter slice of pie. (Said pie being of the camp variety and held together under the strain.) Anything lost or missing about the camp was always blamed on the jays, if it was of reasonable size.

At length one of the men made a catch-alive trap and a few jays were caught and reprimanded by pulling out their tail feathers or tying a string around their neck. But their boldness was not checked and more severe methods were used. A heavy plank and boulder replaced the box and crushed the birds to death. On the first afternoon that this rig was set up, twelve jays were killed. The number of camp retainers was considerable lessened, but the few remaining were the most skillful of the tribe. Their methods of robbing the trap of its bait of choice bacon and evading the falling weight were remarkable and exciting to watch.

The Canada Jay is said to cause trappers much annoyance by springing traps set for mink and marten and also by ruining the pelts of the dead trapped animals.

An Indian name for this bird is "Wiskijon", which, when the white man arrived, probably became "Whiskey John" and then shortened to "Whiskey Jack", the most used name in a long string of aliases.

--- Shakopee, Minnesota

GENERAL NOTES

GEESE and SWANS: The morning of April 2nd found me at Fort Snelling. Just as daylight was becoming established, I heard the unmistakable honks of a flock of geese flying northward. They were a considerable distance away, and since the woods obscured my view, I was unable to locate them. About two hours later I heard the geese again, this time at a point south of where I first heard them going north. I looked up, and there was a "V" of twenty-five or thirty Snow Geese, this time flying west.

The thrill of the morning came half an hour later at a point southeast of this latter place. Flying south were two flocks of beautiful, large, snow-white birds winging their way in the bright sunlight. Immediately I noticed that the birds in the smaller flock were almost twice as large as the geese in the "V". On closer observation I also noticed that these larger birds lacked the black primaries of the geese and that their bills were black.

They were Whistling Swans; seven of them! The most striking features of their size were the long necks and broad, heron-like wings, rather than the size of the body, which is conspicuous when the bird is on the water.

If we assume that the geese observed each time were the same individuals, it is interesting to note their peculiar route perhaps due to confusion and the fact that the swams were not with them the first time.

--- Alden Risser, St. Paul, Minnesota

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: Because the Red-shouldered Hawk is so uncommon in the state some recent records may be of interest. On March 26, 1930, Alden Risser and the writer saw a pair of these birds on the St. Croix River, a few miles above Stillwater. Earlier this Spring and in July 1929 at about the same place, Mr. W. J. Breckenridge saw a pair, presumably the same pair. Because the birds seem so localized, having been seen in the same place at three different times, it does not seem unreasonable to infer that they, perhaps, are nesting there. The red shoulder and the white bars on the tail (more numerous and narrower than on the Broad-winged Hawk) make the adults comparatively easy to identify.

--- Gustav Swanson, Minneapolis

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Sometimes we hunt for certain rare or uncommon birds and find them, but we usually see more uncommon birds when we are not looking especially for them. On February 12, 1930 I was walking along the road, about three miles south of Excelsior, not paying much attention to things going on around me when suddenly a small bird flitted down to a spruce tree close to me. To my joy I saw that it was a Red-breasted Nuthatch. He was just as busy as his larger cousin, but seemed to be more quiet. He was very agile at climbing over and under the spruce boughs, and he was clever at reaching between the spruce needles for food, if he hadn't flitted down so close to me I probably never would have seen him. Because this was such an early date, I thought he must have stayed here most all winter. Several times I went back to see if he was still around, but I could not find him again.

--- Sterling Brackett, Excelsior

COURTSHIP OF THE WOODCOCK: The Woodcocks at Fort Snelling have been seen giving their remarkable courtship performance this year as in former years. On March 29th and on April 4th, several of the club members witnessed the performance. Two birds in the same general area were heard and seen at the same time and on these two evenings the courtship song and aerial evolutions lasted from shortly after 7:00 p.m. to about 7:30 p.m.

--- Gustav Swanson, Minneapolis

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THE FLICKER

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NESTING OF THE BARRED OWL

Stanley Stein

On April 13th of this Spring we found the nest of a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) near Shakopee, and located in a cavity about ten feet from the ground in an elm tree. The cavity, which was lined with a few leaves and feathers, and had been caused by the decaying of wood, was exposed when a branch had broken off. It was probably two feet deep and its opening was about ten inches in diameter. On the lining were placed the three white eggs which were badly nest-stained when we found them. This, together with the late date, indicated that the eggs were about ready to hatch.

The old birds were not as wild as I expected. The first few times we approached the nest the birds would not leave until we pounded on the tree, but after a few visits they had become so wary that they left the nest before we approached within fifteen feet. We were all surprised that such a large bird could leave the nest so quietly and inconspicuously. One had to be looking for the bird to see it leave. The old owls, both of which were often present at once, always perched high in a nearby tree after leaving the nest, or after being attracted by our presence, and occasionally they would give a hoot or two.

By April 17th all of the eggs were hatched, and when we took the young out of the nest in order to photograph them we found that they averaged about four inches in length, though they varied considerably. They were covered with a soft white down which contrasted strikingly with their large yellow bills.

On April 22nd all of the young had their eyes open, and at this time the nest contained also two field mice which were still warm, evidently fresh kills. On April 27th we found the remains of a Flicker in the nest. This was the only bird of which we found any remains, and although I cannot tell whether or not it was the only one devoured I do believe that this owl does not molest birds to any great degree, for a pair of Nuthatches successfully reared a brood within fifteen feet of the owl's nest.

By May 4th the owlets were quite large and the color of their eyes had changed from black to a washed-out blue. Their feathers were beginning to develop black tips. At this time the young were quite vicious, so much so that

we found it necessary to wear leather gloves while removing the birds from the nest to secure the necessary photographic record. Shortly afterwards the smallest of the young was removed for a pet, but the venture was not very successful.

By May 13th the largest of the remaining owls had left the nest. Since I could not locate the bird I do not know whether its first trip out into the world was successful. The other owl was at this time standing on the edge of the nest cavity, and, as far as I could determine, was unable to fly. That was the end of my acquaintance with the owls, and now my greatest regret is that I did not mark the birds in some way so that I would be able to recognize them in case it should be my good fortune to see them again.

--- Shakopee, Minnesota

UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL

Ralph Woolsey

On Friday, May 30th, last, Ernest Stein and the writer approached one of the many large wash-outs which are common in the bluffs near Shakopee. Suddenly we were startled by a large owl which flew from near one end of the ravine. Since the place was bare of vegetation and seemed to be devoid of anything interesting to an owl we immediately began looking for a reasonable explanation for the bird's presence.

After a short search we were about to give up when Ernest, with the aid of a pair of binoculars, described what he thought was a young owl in a shelf which was hallowed out beneath the overhanging edge of the wash-out. We eagerly made our way to the place and discovered that this was indeed the case.

Stanley Stein, who was then summoned, aided us in arriving at the conclusion that the bird could be none other than Bubo virginianus, the Great Horned Owl.

The great question then was, how did our little friend get to this unusual place? Feathers of various ill-fated coots lay strewn about in abundance, and we had all but arrived at the conclusion that the young bird must have prematurely left its nest and taken up this place as its second home when Ernest suddenly displayed the two parts of a white egg which he had found among the debris on the shelf. This brought us to the decision that this particular parent Horned Owl must have chosen to be unconventional, and had picked this unusual place as its nesting site.

--- Shakopee, Minnesota

THE SPRING MIGRATION OF 1930

Compiled by Alden Risser

A mild spell during February which melted the entire winter's snow was apparently influential in hastening migration, many of the birds returning several weeks before they were due. This condition persisted in a less marked degree through the middle of March, but rather sudden change of weather checked the movements of the birds. Most observers reported an unusual lack of birds, especially transients, during what should have been the height of migration, from the latter part of April throughout May; however, moderate "waves" were reported on May 7th and 10th.

Below is a summary of the Spring migration as observed by the Minnesota Bird Club members and a few others. It has been compiled from records submitted by Mrs. Frances S. Davidson, Mr. E. D. Swedenborg, and Gustav Swanson of Minneapolis; Leander Fischer, Stanley and Ernest Stein, and Ralph Woolsey of Shakopee; Sterling Brackett of Excelsior; Alden Carpenter and Marius Morse of Robbinsdale; A. C. Rosenwinkel and Alden Risser of St. Paul; and a few others whose names appear beside their respective records. We are especially grateful to Mrs. Davidson for her kindness in sending us her dates which revolutionize the list.

The dates are for Hennepin and Ramsey counties and surrounding portions of adjacent counties unless otherwise noted. The list includes 223 species of birds:

	<u>FIRST</u>	<u>LAST</u>		<u>FIRST</u>	<u>LAST</u>
Holboells Grebe	May 3		Canvasback	Apr 4	May 18
Horned Grebe	Apr 13	May 7	Lesser Scaup	Mar 16	May 22
Pied-billed Grebe "	5		Ring-necked Duck	Mar 16	May 3
Loon	Mar 26		American Goldeneye	Mar 9	Apr 27
Herring Gull	Mar 9	May 30	Barrow Goldeneye	May 5	May 7
Ring-billed Gull	Mar 11	Jun 4	(J. Kittredge - Duluth)		
(Adult)			Bufflehead	Mar 20	May 8
Bonaparte's Gull	Apr 26	May 18	White-winged Scoter		May 11
Caspian Tern	May 18	May 30	(North Shore - G.S.)		
Common Tern	Apr 29	May 30	Old Squaw(N,Shore-G,S.)		May 11
Black Tern	May 1		Ruddy Duck	Apr 13	
D.-c. Cormorant	Apr 12		L. Snow Goose	Apr 2	Apr 2
Red-b. Merganser	Apr 27	May 18	Canada Goose	Apr 11	Apr 14
Hooded Merganser	Mar 28		Whistling Swan	Apr 2	Apr 2
Mallard	Mar 8		Bittern	Apr 12	
Black Duck	Mar 23	Apr 21	Least Bittern	May 15	
Gadwall	Mar 22	May 3	Great Blue Heron	Mar 25	
Baldpate	Mar 20	May 3	Green Heron	Apr 22	
G.-winged Teal	Mar 20	May 3	Black-crowned Heron	Apr 9	
B.-winged Teal	Apr 6		Sandhill Crane	Apr 4	Apr 4
Shoveler	Mar 20	May 3	(Mrs. Davidson)		
Pintail	Mar 25	Apr 27	Virginia Rail	Apr 30	
Wood Duck	Apr 10		Sora	Apr 28	
Redhead	Apr 5	Apr 24			

	<u>FIRST</u>	<u>LAST</u>		<u>FIRST</u>	<u>LAST</u>
Florida Gallinule	Apr 30		Pigeon Hawk	Apr 10	
Coot	Apr 6		Sparrow Hawk	Mar 8	
Woodcock	Mar 29		Osprey	Apr 23	
Wilson's Snipe(wintere)	May 2		Long-eared Owl	May 2	
Long-b. Dowitcher	Apr 30	May 1	Short-eared Owl	Wintered	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Apr 13	May 29	Barred Owl	Wintered	
White-r. Sandpiper	May 23	May 23	Saw-whet Owl	Wintered	
Least Sandpiper	May 4	May 27	Screech Owl	Wintered	
Red-backed "	May 18	May 30	Great Horned Owl	Wintered	
(both at Frontenac)			Snowy Owl		Feb 5
Semip'd Sandpiper	May 11	Jun 4	Burrowing Owl	May 24	
Sanderling	May 30	Jun 1	(Lac Qui Parle Co.,-Swanson)		
(both at Frontenac)			Yellow-b. Cuckoo	May 15	
Greater Y.-legs	Apr 18	May 7	B.-billed "	May 5	
Yellow-legs	Apr 14	May 29	B. Kingfisher	Mar 8	
Solitary Sandpiper	Apr 27	May 23	Hairy Woodpecker	Wintered	
Upland Plover	Apr 6		Downy "	Wintered	
(W. Kilgore)			Arctic 3-toed "		Mar 30
Hudsonian Curlew	May 30	May 30	Y.b. Sapsucker	Apr 9	
(Frontenac - A. Risser)			Pileated Woodp.	Wintered	
Spotted Sandpiper	Apr 27		Red-h. Woodpecker	"	
Golden Plover	May 24	May 24	Red-bel. "	"	
(Lac Qui Parle Co.,-Swanson)			Flicker	Apr 2	
Killdeer	Mar 8		Whip-poor-will	Apr 28	
Semiplm'd Plover	May 11	May 30	Nighthawk	May 5	
Ruddy Turnstone	May 18	May 30	Chimney Swift	Apr 28	
(both Frontenac); also May 19			Ruby-t. Humm'd.	May 5	
at Mpls & May 30 at Mille Lacs.			Kingbird	May 2	
Bob-white	Wintered		Arkans. Kingbird	May 25	
Ruffed Grouse	Wintered		(Breckenridge)		
Prairie Chicken	Apr 16		Crested Flycat.	May 4	
Ring-n. Pheasant	Wintered		Phoebe	Apr 2	
Mourning Dove	Apr 5		Olive-s. Flycat.	May 10	Jun 2
Turkey Vulture	Mar 6		Wood Pewee	May 10	
Marsh Hawk	Feb 20		Yel.-b. Flycat.	May 9	May 31
Sharp.s. Hawk	Mar 16		Alder Flycatcher	May 5	
Cooper's Hawk	Feb 21		Least Flycatcher	Apr 26	
Red-tailed Hawk	Mar 9		Pr. Horned Lark	Feb 8	
Krider's Hawk	Mar 16		Blue Jay	Wintered	
(Mrs. D.vidson)			Canada Jay	Jan 12	Mar 9
Red-sh. Hawk	Mar 16		Crow	Wintered	
(W.J.Breckenridge)			Bobolink	May 4	
Broad-w. Hawk	Mar 9		Cowbird	Apr 2	
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb 22	Apr 15	Yell-h. Blackb'd	Apr 20	
also May 10(N. Shore-G.S.)			Red-w. Blackbird	Mar 8	
Bald Eagle (Evans)	May 3		E. Meadowlark	Mar 16	
Duck Hawk	May 10		W. Meadowlark	Mar 12	
(North Shore-Swanson)			Orchard Oriole	May 6	
			Baltimore "	May 4	

	<u>FIRST</u>	<u>LAST</u>		<u>FIRST</u>	<u>LAST</u>
Rusty Blackbird	Feb 21	May 4	Prothonotary Warb.	May 11	
Brewer's "	Apr 10		(Mpls. & Hastings)		
Bronzed Brackle	Mar 12		Prothonotary Warb.	May 25	May 31
Evening Grosbeak	Feb 6	Apr 1	Golden-winged "	May 8	May 11
Pine Grosbeak		Apr 20	Nashville Warbler	May 3	May 25
(More-G. Ekholm)			Orange-crowned W.	May 1	May 25
Purple Finch	Wintrd	May 6	Tennessee Warbler	May 3	May 31
Redpoll		Mar 29	N. Parula Warbler	May 22	May 26
Goldfinch	Wintrd		Cape May Warbler	May 6	May 18
Snow Bunting		Mar 5	Yellow Warbler	May 2	
Lapland Longspur	Feb 27	Apr 3	Myrtle Warbler	Apr 11	May 16
Vesper Sparrow	Mar 30		Magnolia Warbler	May 6	May 26
Savannah Sparrow	Apr 17		Cerulean W. (Mrs. Davison)	May 18	
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 4		Chestnut-s. Warb.	May 7	May 29
LeConte's Sparrow	May 7		Bay-b. Warbler	May 7	May 29
Nelson's Sparrow	May 21	May 21	Blackpoll Warbler	May 6	May 29
Lark Sparrow	Apr 27		Blackburnian "	May 6	May 27
Harris' Sparrow	May 2	May 25	Black-th. Green "	May 3	May 25
White-c. Sparrow	May 2	May 19	Pine Warbler	Apr 28	May 7
White-th. Sparrow	Apr 9	May 18	Palm Warbler	Apr 26	May 17
Tree Sparrow	Wintrd	May 18	Ovenbird	Apr 30	
Chipping Sparrow	Apr 9		G. Waterthrush	Apr 27	May 29
Clay-colored "	Apr 30		L. Waterthrush	Apr 27	
Field Sparrow	Apr 20		Connecticut W.	May 29	(Risser)
Slate-c. Junco	Wintrd	May 1	Mourning Warbler	May 13	May 31
Song Sparrow	Mar 16		Md. Yellowthroat	May 4	
Lincoln's Sparrow	Apr 25	May 10	Wilson's Warbler	May 6	May 29
Swamp Sparrow	Apr 9		Canada Warbler	May 13	May 26
Fox Sparrow	Mar 20	Apr 27	Redstart	May 4	
Towhee	Apr 27		Catbird	May 4	
Cardinal	Wintered		Brown Thrasher	Apr 27	
Rose-b. Grosbeak	May 2		House Wren	May 2	
Indigo Bunting	May 6		Winter Wren	Apr 8	Apr 8
Dickcissel	May 25		Short-b. Marsh W.	May 5	
Scarlet Tanager	May 9		Prairie Marsh W.	May 9	
Purple Martin	Apr 6		Brown Creeper	Wintrd	May 6
Cliff Swallow	May 5		White-b. Nuthatch	Wintered	
Barn Swallow	Apr 22		Red-broasted "	Feb 12	Feb 12
Tree Swallow	Apr 6		Bl.-capped Chick.	Wintered	
Bank Swallow	Apr 13		G.-crowned Kinglet	Mar 29	May 1
Rough-w. Swallow	Apr 13		Ruby- " "	Apr 6	May 23
Bohemian Waxwing		Feb 1	Wood Thrush	Apr 12	(Swanson)
Cedar Waxwing	Feb 1		Willow Thrush	May 4	
Northern Shrike		Apr 13	Grey-c. Thrush	May 2	May 27
Migrant Shrike	Mar 18		Olive-backed Th.	Apr 28	Jun 2
Red-eyed Vireo	May 5		Hermit Thrush	Apr 9	May 11
Philadelphia Vireo	May 23	May 28	Robin	Feb 22	
Warbling Vireo	May 3		Bluebird	Feb 23	
Yellow-th. Vireo	May 5				
Blue-headed Vireo	May 2	May 18			
Bl. & Wh. Warbler	Apr 29	May 16			

CONNECTICUT WARBLER AT FORT SNELLING

Some birds are sufficiently uncommon to warrant their mention though seen only in migration. Such is the Connecticut Warbler. I had the good fortune to observe one of these birds, a full-plumaged male, for several minutes on May 29, 1930.

When first seen the bird was hopping about quite actively near the bottom of a rather dense vine, but after three or four minutes he flew to a twig of a dead tree where he remained for a minute or so without moving for more than a few feet. Then he began to sing and continued doing so as long as I remained to watch him.

The song is unquestionably the most beautiful of any of our warblers which I have heard with the possible exception of the Louisiana Waterthrush. It is loud and clear, and is the most liquid of the warbler's songs, even more so than that of the Mourning Warbler. Each note is distinct and not run together as would be imagined from the words which various observers have declared it to pronounce. The song consisted of usually seven or eight notes of which the second, fifth, and eighth (if given) were accented and given a rising inflection.

--- Alden Risser
St. Paul, Minnesota

THE 1930 NESTING SEASON

E. D. Swedenborg

Following the plan commenced by S. A. Grimes in 1929 of making a summarized report of the nesting season in Minnesota as reported by the various members of the Minnesota Bird Club the writer presents the following data.

Eared Grebe: A nesting colony of Eared Grebe was found by Alden Risser near Herman, June 30th. The nests were observed from a distance and the incubating birds distinctly seen, but there was no opportunity to closely examine them.

(Pied-billed Grebe should follow here, see bottom of page)

Loon: A nest of the Loon was found by Gustav Swanson near Deer River. Its contents, the usual two eggs, hatched on June 7th. The writer saw two half-grown young with an adult bird at Silver Lake, near Excelsior, on July 7th.

Herring Gull: Several nests of the Herring Gull containing from one to three eggs, were found by Gustav Swanson along the North Shore of Lake Superior on May 10th. The writer found a nest of this species north of Two Harbors on June 14th; contents two eggs.

Black Tern: Several nests of this species were located, the first, containing one egg, near Shakopee on May 22nd by Stanley Stein and Leander Fischer. The latest, two at Crystal Lake, one with one egg, the other with three young, on June 26th (Marius Morse). Young were awing at Harriet on July 15th.

American Merganser: A female of this species, accompanied by several small young, was seen by the writer at Black Duck Lake, June 24th.

Mallard: Only nest reported, one found at Swan Lake, in Nicollet County, June 8th, with five eggs (Leander Fischer).

Blue-winged Teal: Nest, seven eggs, at Swan Lake, June 8th (Leander Fischer).

Wood Duck: A family, consisting of a female and about ten small young, was seen by the writer, June 26th, on Elk Lake in Itasca State Park.

Least Bittern: Earliest nest found at Crystal Lake (Marius Morse), May 17th, containing a single egg (this nest held five eggs on June 2nd). The latest, found by Alden Risser, at St. Paul on June 18th, with four fresh eggs.

Pied-billed Grebe: Earliest nest, found by Stanley Stein and Leander Fischer near Shakopee, May 18th, containing seven eggs. Last, found by Marius Morse, at Crystal Lake, July 16th; contents, three young, just hatch.

Great Blue Heron: This species nested again this summer in the tamarack swamp near Nine Mile Creek. One nest in this small colony, situated in the top of a fifty foot tamarack, held five eggs on April 27th (the writer).

Green Heron: The only nest of this species found this season held two eggs on May 24th (Leander Fischer). This was near Shakopee.

Virginia Rail: Nest, ten eggs, at Oxboro Pond, May 29th (the writer). Downy young, one-third grown, were seen by Alden Risser, near St. Paul on August 11th.

Sora Rail: Three nests of this species were reported, two found by Stanley Stein and Leander Fischer on May 20th (5 eggs) and May 22nd (10 eggs). The other was located by the writer at Lake Cornelia on May 30th, five eggs.

Florida Gallinule: No nest of this species was reported, but downy young were seen by Marius Morse at Crystal Lake on July 7th and by Alden Risser at St. Paul on July 30th.

Coot: Strange as it may seem no nest of the Coot was found. The species nested commonly in several places, especially at Lake Cornelia, where the writer saw scores of young in various stages of development on July 16th.

Upland Plover: A nest of this species, one of the most interesting finds of this season, was discovered by Marius Morse, about two miles north of Robbinsdale on June 1st, at which time it held four eggs.

Spotted Sandpiper: A nest of the Spotted Sandpiper was found by Ralph Woolsey, near Shakopee on June 10th, containing four eggs. On the same Gustav Swanson located a nest near Deer River, containing a like number of eggs. Downy young, just hatched, were seen by Alden Risser, near St. Paul, June 17th.

Killdeer: Three nests found, two by the writer, April 28th and May 20th, both at Lake Calhoun and each containing three eggs. The other was found by Alden Risser, near St. Paul on May 2nd and held four eggs. Young were seen by Gustav Swanson near Frontenac, May 17th, by Alden Carpenter, near Robbinsdale, May 18th, and by Leander Fischer and Stanley Stein, near Shakopee, May 21st.

Ruffed Grouse: No nest found but family groups were seen by Alden Risser at Frontenac, June 21st, by Gustav Swanson near Deer River, June 13th, and by the writer at Pigeon River, June 16th, at the Brule River, June 17th, and at Devils Track Lake, June 20th.

Ring-necked Pheasant: A nest found by Gustav Swanson at Fort Snelling on May 16th held sixteen eggs and one found by Alden Carpenter, near Robbinsdale on the following day contained twelve eggs. The only other nest reported was by Leander Fischer, near Shakopee on June 5th, with eleven eggs. Young were seen by the writer at Lake Harriet on June 6th and by Alden Risser at St. Paul on June 12th.

Mourning Dove: Several doves' nests were found, the earliest by Marius Morse at Robbinsdale, May 7th (2 eggs). The latest by Alden Risser near Isanti on August 21st, which also contained two eggs.

Marsh Hawk: Charles Evans found the only nest reported of this hawk, at Fort Snelling on May 10th; contents, five eggs.

Cooper's Hawk: A nest of this species was found by Ralph Woolsey and Stanley Stein, near Shakopee on June 8th, containing one egg and one young bird.

Red-tailed Hawk: The first nest found of this hawk was located by Stanley Stein, near Shakopee on March 30th and held four eggs. A nest with one egg was seen by Gustav Swanson, near Stillwater, on May 4th.

Duck Hawk: Along the North Shore, on May 10th, Gustav Swanson saw a Duck Hawk's nest with four eggs, in which incubation was far advanced.

Sparrow Hawk: A nest of this beautiful falcon, containing young which were being fed was found by Leander Fischer, near Shakopee, on June 4th.

Osprey: Gustav Swanson found an osprey's nest near Deer River, on June 4th, which contained an undetermined number of eggs.

Barred Owl: The only Barred Owl's nest seen was one discovered by Ralph Woolsey near Shakopee, on April 13th. The contents were three eggs, all of which hatched on the 17th.

Great Horned Owl: Two nests of this species were reported, the first at Hyland Lake, near Minneapolis, on April 26th (the writer). It was situated at least fifty feet from the ground and held two well-developed young. The other nest was found by Ernest Stein and Ralph Woolsey and was placed in a more unusual location, on the ledge of a cliff. It contained one young bird.

Burrowing Owl: Two birds of this species were seen at the entrances to their nesting sites, near Madison on May 24th by Gustav Swanson.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Three nests of the Black-billed Cuckoo were found, one by Ralph Woolsey, near Shakopee on June 12th, with two eggs, the other two by the writer. One of these held four eggs when it was found near Excelsior on June first; the other had one egg and a newly-hatched young. It was seen on June 29th near Onamia.

Belted Kingfisher: Several nests were found, the earliest by Alden Risser and Gustav Swanson at Frontenac on May 18th. The female were incubating at the time. The writer found nests with young at Minneapolis on June 8th; near Ely on June 21, and in Itasca Park on June 26th.

Hairy Woodpecker: The earliest nest of this species, with young, was found by Marius Morse, May 11th; the latest, with young ready to leave, by Alden Risser on May 25th.

Downy Woodpecker: Two nests of the Downy Woodpecker were found, both containing young; the first by Ralph Woolsey, near Shakopee, on June 15th; the other by Alden Risser, at Frontenac June 21st.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A nest of the Sapsucker, containing eggs, was found by Gustav Swanson, at Frontenac, May 18th. Alden Risser found the only other nests of this species reported; two at the same place, both containing well-developed young, on June 21st.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Nests of this species were found in several localities; the earliest, in which a bird was incubating, on May 21st, near Shakopee (Leander Fischer). Among the other nests reported was one at Robbinsdale, June 25th (Marius Morse), and one at Frontenac on June 21st, also containing young (Alden Risser).

Northern Flicker: Three nests of the Flicker were found, the earliest by the writer at Lake Harriet, on April 30th, containing an undetermined number of eggs. Alden Carpenter located a nest at Robbinsdale, on May 7th, with three eggs and Marius Morse found a nest in the same vicinity, which held young birds on May 30th.

Nighthawk: Ralph Woolsey found a nest of the Nighthawk near Shakopee, on June 6th and Gustav Swanson found the only other nest reported, near Deer River, on June 11th. Each contained the customary two eggs.

Chimney Swift: Though colonies of the Swift are numerous in Minneapolis, apparently the only nest seen by any of the members was one which Alden Risser investigated at St. Paul on June 24th. At this time the nest held well-developed young birds.

Kingbird: The earliest nest of the Kingbird was found near Shakopee by Stanley Stein, on May 20th, containing one egg. Alden Risser found two nests at St. Paul, one on June 8th (two eggs), the other on June 22nd, with small young. Gustav Swanson found a nest near Deer River, which contained young birds on June 15th, and the writer saw a nest near Northome, with an incubating bird, on June 24th.

Arkansas Kingbird: Alden Risser located two nests of this western species at Madison on June 29th. One nest contained three eggs, the other large young. Alden Carpenter writes as follows from Robbinsdale, "When I discovered this nest on June 9th, the birds were just building it. Two days later the nest was gone and I discovered them building in a tree across the street. After some time they came back to the old location. The tree was a large one and I did not climb it. Later I saw young birds being fed in my yard. This nest was near my home in Robbinsdale." Alden Carpenter is familiar with this species in western Minnesota and in South Dakota.

Crested Flycatcher: Two nests of this species were found, Stanley Stein and Ralph Woolsey finding one in the process of construction, near Shakopee, on June 8th, and the writer saw one in a nesting box at Gray's Bay, Minnetonka, on June 10th. It contained an undetermined number of eggs.

Phoebe: The earliest nest of the Phoebe was found near Shakopee by Ralph Woolsey on April 24th; contents, five eggs. Alden Risser found a nest at St. Paul on April 27th with the same number of eggs. A nest found by the writer near Onamia on May 24th held five eggs. The young were about ready to leave on June 13th and on June 29th the same nest again held five eggs. A nest found by the writer near Grand Marais held four young ready to sever home ties on June 20th, and Gustav Swanson found a nest of young birds at Madison on May 25th.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: A nest of this interesting "Canadian" was found by Gustav Swanson near Deer River, on June 15th. The contents were three eggs.

Wood Pewee: Two nests of the Pewee were found, the first by Leander Fischer near Shakopee, which contained three eggs on June 12th. The other nest was found by the writer near Excelsior, and held four quite large young on July 4th.

Alder Flycatcher: Two nests of this late nesting species were found. Alden Risser located one at St. Paul which held small young on July 13, and the writer found a nest at Silver Lake which held three young about two days old, on July 30th.

Least Flycatcher: A Least Flycatcher was seen building by Charles Evans on May 24th, but the first nest containing eggs was not found until June 4th, when Stanley Stein saw one at Shakopee containing two eggs. A nest found by Gustav Swanson at Deer River on June 13th held four eggs and Marius Morse saw young birds out of their nests at Glenwood on June 18th.

Horned Lark: Marius Morse found the earliest nest reported of this species near Robbinsdale on March 23rd; contents, three eggs. Gustav Swanson found a nest in Anoka county which held three young birds on May 7th.

Blue Jay: Several nests of the jay were found, the first by Alden Carpenter, at Robbinsdale, containing five eggs on April 29th. The latest was seen at Shakopee, by Ralph Woolsey, on June 28th. At that time the nest harbored three almost fully fledged young.

Crow: The contents of about ten crow's nests were examined. The first nest, containing five eggs, was found by Stanley Stein at Shakopee, on April 17th. A nest found by Charles Evans on April 20th, which held five young, was probably an earlier nest. On the same date Evans also found a nest containing six eggs. No really late nests were located, one found by Evans on May 3rd, with four eggs, being the latest.

Bobolink: To Leander Fischer goes the credit for finding the only nest reported on this species. This was near Shakopee on May 27th, at which time it held four eggs.

Cowbird: Alden Risser found both the earliest (May 16th) and the latest (July 24th) Cowbird's eggs reported. Eggs of the Cowbird were found in nests of the following species -- Red-winged Blackbird, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, Redstart, and Wood Thrush, and young Cowbirds were seen being fed by a Myrtle Warbler (near Bemidji) and a Maryland Yellowthroat.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Several nests of this beautiful blackbird were found in different localities by various members. The earliest reported was one found by Stanley Stein and Ralph Woolsey, near Shakopee, which held three eggs on May 18th. The latest, three, found by Alden Risser at Heron Lake on June 29th, contained young birds of various ages.

Red-winged Blackbird: As usual every slough held its quota of Red-winged nests. The earliest finished nest was seen by the writer on May 8th; the first nest with eggs, two, by Marius Morse on May 12th; the first young by the same observer, on May 28th; the first complete set of eggs by Alden Risser, on May 16th; the latest nest, with large young, also by Risser on July 18th.

Meadowlark: Although several Meadowlark's nests were found only the two in which the observers determined the species will be listed. The only nest of this species, the eastern, was found by Stanley Stein on May 21st at which time it held five eggs.

Western Meadowlark: Gustav Swanson found a nest of the Western Meadowlark at Madison on May 24th, which contained 6 eggs.

Orchard Oriole: The only nest of this rather unusual species in this section was found by Ralph Woolsey, near Shakopee, on June 9th, on which date it had four eggs.

Baltimore Oriole: Though several nests of the Baltimore Oriole were found apparently only two were looked into. The first of these was at Shakopee on May 18th, in which was two eggs (Leander Fischer). The other, at St. Paul, on June 8th, which held three or more eggs (Alden Risser). Young were out of the nest in Glenwood Park on June 23 (Marius Morse).

Brewer's Blackbird: Numerous nests of this western blackbird were found, the earliest by the writer, in Minneapolis, on May 10th, containing six eggs; the latest by Marius Morse near Robbinsdale, on June 7th, with five eggs. The species nests in small colonies, such being found near Minnehaha Creek, Nine Mile Creek, north of Robbinsdale, and near St. Paul.

Bronzed Grackle: Marius Morse found the first nests of the grackle on April 28th, near Robbinsdale, two, with three and four eggs respectively. At Frontenac, on June 21st, Alden Risser found the latest nest, one containing three fresh eggs. Gustav Swanson saw a nest at Madison which contained six eggs on May 18th.

Purple Finch: No nests of this delightful songster were found, but Gustav Swanson saw an adult feeding an almost fully developed young bird near Deer River, on June 19th.

Goldfinch: An unusually early nest of this species was found near Shakopee by Ralph Woolsey and Leander Fischer on May 20th, at which time it held two eggs. The second nest was found at Silver Lake, near Excelsior, by the writer, in which the fifth egg was laid, July 21st. These hatched on August 1st. Numerous other nests were found, the latest by the writer on September 6th, at which time it held three young, just hatched, and two eggs. On September 13th this nest held two young, still far from ready to leave the nest.

Vesper Sparrow: Four nests of this ground nesting species were found, each in a different section of the state. The first was found at Crosby, on May 23rd, by Donald Fischer, and contained four eggs. The other three nests each held three eggs and were found as follows: May 24th Onamia (the writer; June 6th Anoka County (Gustav Swanson), and July 1st, Shakopee (Ralph Woolsey).

Lark Sparrow: The only nest of this distinctive member of the sparrow family was found by Ralph Woolsey at Shakopee on June 2nd, and held five eggs.

White-throated Sparrow: Near Deer River on June 19th, Gustav Swanson found a nest of this species which contained two eggs. The nest held four eggs on June 21st and on the latter date the same observer found another nest in the same vicinity, which contained three young birds.

Chipping Sparrow: The earliest nest of the Chippy was found by Ralph Woolsey, near Shakopee, on May 12th; three eggs. The latest nest with eggs was seen by Alden Risser at Frontenac on June 21st and the writer saw a nest in Itasca county on June 23rd which contained three young. Young still were being fed, out of their nest, at Minneapolis on August 7th (the writer.)

Claycolored Sparrow: Several nests of this rather tedious musician were located. Donald Fischer found one on May 23rd at Crosby, containing four eggs. Alden Risser located a nest at St. Paul on July 24th which held three eggs. Nests were found on intermediate dates by Marisu Morse and Alden Carpenter at Robbinsdale and by the writer at Minneapolis and Marius Morse saw young out of the nest on June 8th.

Field Sparrow: This species does not seem to be very generally distributed about the Twin Cities and only two nests were found. The first was seen by the writer near Minneapolis on May 28th and held four eggs, three of the owner and one of the Cowbird. Ralph Woolsey found a nest near Shakopee on July 6th containing two eggs.

Song Sparrow: Charles Evans found the earliest nest on May 10th, one with two sparrow's eggs and a Cowbird's. Two nests were found on May 16th, one by Marius Morse at Robbinsdale, with five eggs of the owner and a Cowbird's; and the other by Alden Risser at St. Paul, contents, four eggs. The latest nest was at Shakopee on July 29th and held a single young bird. Several other nests were found, among them one by Gustav Swanson at Frontenac on May 18th, four eggs; one by the same observer at Deer River on June 14th, five eggs; one by the writer near Onamia on May 24th, five eggs, and another by the writer at Minneapolis on May 26th with four small young. A rather unusual nest was found near Northome on June 24th. It was situated in a cut along a road about six inches from the top in a cavity evidently left by a fallen rock. Only a few grasses and rootlets constituted the nest which held five young.

Swamp Sparrow: Only two nests of this species were found; one by Stanley Stein, Shakopee, May 20th, which held five eggs. The writer flushed an adult bird from a finished but empty nest at Oxboro on May 29th.

Towhee: No nest of the Towhee was found, but Alden Risser saw a nearly full-grown young bird at Mankato on June 28th and young just out of the nest at St. Paul on August 7th.

Cardinal: A nest of this most interesting species was found by Charles Evans at Fort Snelling on May 16th. It contained three Cardinal's eggs and a Cowbird's egg. Gustav Swanson and Alden Risser found the only other nest reported, on May 18th, at Frontenac, in which were two eggs, one a Cowbird's.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Several nests were located, Alden Risser finding both the earliest, May 16th (two eggs), and the latest, June 12th (one egg). Gustav Swanson found one at Frontenac on May 18th with five eggs. Other nests were seen at Minneapolis, Robbinsdale and Shakopee.

Indigo Bunting: Two nests were found, the first containing small young, at Frontenac, on June 21st; the other containing well-developed young, at St. Paul on June 24th; both by Alden Risser.

Dickcissel: Alden Risser found the only nest reported of this species, at Frontenac, June 21st, with four eggs.

Scarlet Tanager: No nest was found but the writer saw a young bird being fed near Excelsior on June 4th.

Purple Martin: Martins began building in a colony watched by Marius Morse at Robbinsdale on May 4th. The last young to leave their nests in this colony departed on July 30th. The writer saw young out of their nests at Blackduck on June 24th. Other colonies were reported from Minneapolis, Shakopee, St. Paul, Frontenac, Deer River, and Big Sandy Lake.

Cliff Swallow: A small colony of Cliff Swallows again built their nests under the eaves of a barn at 62nd Street and Penn Avenue, Minneapolis. The writer saw them building on May 7th and on May 23rd there were twelve nests and the birds were incubating.

Bank Swallow: This species seems to nest in large colonies over most of the entire state. A nest at Minneapolis held five eggs on May 28th (the writer). The latest nest held young birds on June 25th (Marius Morse).

Barn Swallow: Earliest nest, one found by the writer at Milaca on May 24, with four eggs. Several other nests were found, the latest by Alden Risser at St. Paul on July 13, at which time it contained fair-sized young.

Tree Swallow: The earliest nest of the Tree Swallow was found by Marius Morse at Robbinsdale on May 18th; contents two eggs. The young left this nest on June 25th. No very late nests were reported.

Rough-winged Swallow: The writer found a nest with four eggs on May 23rd at Minneapolis and one with four young near Excelsior on July 5th, the earliest and latest. A nest found by Marius Morse Robbinsdale, June 8th, held seven eggs.

Cedar Waxwing: Four nests were reported, the earliest by Alden Risser at Frontenac on June 21st, on which a bird was apparently brooding; the latest by Ralph Woolsey, at Shakopee, on July 31st, containing three well-developed young. Gustav Swanson found a finished but empty nest at Deer River on June 17th and the writer saw one at Ely on June 22nd, containing eggs.

Migrant Shrike: Three shrike's nests were found, the earliest containing two eggs on April 26th (the writer), the latest at Shakopee, held five young on June 15th (Leander Fischer).

Red-eyed Vireo: A nest found by Gustav Swanson at Deer River on June 13th, with four eggs, was the earliest one found. No very late nests were reported.

Warbling Vireo: The writer saw a Warbling Vireo put the finishing touches on a nest at Lake Harriet on May 15th but this nest was later deserted. Ralph Woolsey found the first nest with a complete set of eggs, four, at Shakopee on June 6th, and Alden Carpenter saw a nest at Robbinsdale on June 28th with three young.

Yellow-throated Vireo: No nest was located but the writer saw young out of the nest and being fed, near Excelsior on August 4th.

Blue-headed Vireo: A nest with four young birds was found near Deer River by Gustav Swanson on June 17th.

Black and White Warbler: A young bird of this species, apparently just out of the nest, was being fed at Island Lake, near Northome, by the writer on June 24th.

Nashville Warbler: Gustav Swanson located a nest of the Nashville Warbler which contained two young and an egg, near Deer River, on June 20th.

Yellow Warbler: As usual, a number of nests of this species was seen, the earliest by Ralph Woolsey, at Shakopee, on May 17th, with three eggs; the latest by Alden Risser at St. Paul on June 18th, containing a single egg.

Myrtle Warbler: A Myrtle Warbler's nest with four young birds was located by Gustav Swanson, near Deer River, on June 13th. The writer saw an adult male Myrtle Warbler feeding a young cowbird, near Bemidji, on June 25th.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A finished, but as yet empty, nest of this species was found by Gustav Swanson near Deer River on June 17th.

Ovenbird: Alden Risser discovered the only Ovenbird's nest reported, at Frontenac, on June 21st; contents, three fresh eggs.

Grinnell Water Thrush: A young bird of this species was seen by the writer, being fed, on June 24th, at Island Lake, near Northome.

Maryland Yellowthroat: A yellowthroat was observed building on May 18th, near Shakopee, by Stanley Stein and Leander Fischer. The first completed nest, containing five eggs, was found by the writer near Excelsior, on June 1st. Marius Morse located a nest with three young, one a Cowbird, at Robbinsdale on June 26th.

Redstart: A Redstart was seen building by Alden Risser near St. Paul, on May 11th. This observer also saw the first completed nest, containing three eggs, in the same locality on June 1st. The writer found a nest with two eggs near Minneapolis, on June 8th. This nest was situated in the top of a dead tree about 25 feet from the ground.

Catbird: Three different observers saw nests of this species, all on May 18th, the earliest date. A nest was found by Alden Risser and Gustav Swanson on this date, holding five eggs. The latest was seen by Leander Fischer on July 31st near Shakopee.

Brown Thrasher: Stanley Stein observed a Brown Thrasher building, near Shakopee on May 4th, but the earliest completed nest, with four eggs, was found by the writer, near Lake Cornelia, on May 10th. The last reported was seen by Stanley Stein on July 20th; contents, two newly hatched young. Alden Carpenter found a nest situated on the ground, near Robbinsdale, on May 25th.

House Wren: Several nests were found, the earliest at Shakopee, with a single egg on May 18th. The writer found a nest at Grand Marais, containing eggs on June 19th. A nest near Excelsior, begun July 3rd had the eggs hatched July 25th. On August 5th the young were still in the nest (the writer).

Winter Wren: Gustav Swanson saw a young bird of this species, out of the nest, being fed, near Deer River on June 1st.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: An adult bird was flushed from a nest containing one egg, near Excelsior, June 1st (the writer), This was the only nest reported.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: The Long-billed Marsh Wren made only a slightly better showing, two nests being found, the earliest containing two eggs on May 30th (Stanley Stein and Leander Fischer, Shakopee). The other nest was found by Marius Morse near Robbinsdale on June 27th, and held four eggs.

Brown Creeper: This species furnished the thrill of the season to the writer. A nest was found fifteen miles northwest of Grand Marais, a mile from the mouth of the Brule River, on June 17th. It was situated in the usual place, under a loose piece of bark, on a dead spruce, about fourteen feet from the ground and containing five young and an unhatched egg. The young left their nest on June 21st. Gustav Swanson saw an adult carrying food near Deer River on June 14th.

White-breasted Nuthatch: A nest found at Shakopee on April 27th, containing eight eggs was the earliest found. No really late nests were found but Alden Carpenter saw one containing an undetermined number of young birds near Robbinsdale on May 18th.

Black-capped Chickadee: The only occupied nest of the chickadee reported was by Gustav Swanson, near Deer River on June 20th.

Hudsonian Chickadee: Gustav Swanson saw a young bird of the northern species being fed, near Deer River, on June 20th.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Within a hundred feet of the Brown Creeper's nest on the Brule River, the writer found a nest of this feathered mite on June 18th. It was placed near the end of a branch of a tall white spruce about forty feet from the ground and held at least five young, apparently about two days old. The writer also saw young out of the nest, being fed, near Onamia, June 29th, and observed adults carrying food near Northome on June 24th. Gustav Swanson saw adults carrying food near Deer River on June 18th.

Wood Thrush: The farthest north nest of this species ever found in Minnesota was located by Gustav Swanson near Deer River, on June 12th, with four eggs. A nest with three eggs on May 17th, near Shakopee was the earliest reported, and no really late nests were found.

Veery: Three nests of this delightful songster were reported from widely separated localities. The first, by Ralph Woolsey, at Shakopee, containing four eggs on June 8th; one near Deer River by Gustav Swanson with the same number of eggs; and one by the writer at Island Lake on June 24th, containing one egg and three newly hatched young.

Hermit Thrush: A Hermit Thrush was observed carrying food near Deer River on June 14th, by Gustav Swanson.

Robin: Apparently the earliest nest found, of which a bird was incubating, was by the writer on April 18th. Of the scores of other nests found the latest was at Shakopee on July 3rd, at which time it held three newly hatched young.

Bluebird: The earliest nest of the Bluebird, containing a complete set of eggs, four, was found by Marius Morse, near Robbinsdale, on April 28th. These eggs hatched on May 9th. The latest nest contained five eggs, on June 28th near Onamia (the writer).

The above list includes records of nests found of one hundred species. Fourteen others are included, of which either the young were seen, being fed, or adults were seen carrying food.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS SEEN IN WESTERN MINNESOTA

June 28th to July 1st, 1930

Alden Risser

Holboell's Grebe: Four seen on three different lakes near Herman, Grant County.

Horned Grebe: Not seen at the lake at which they are supposed to breed near Hutchinson.

Eared Grebe: Two colonies near Herman; two colonies near Hutchinson, McLeod County. In one of the latter many nests in the middle of the lake were visible from the shore, and there were birds of this species incubating on several of them.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Common everywhere.

Black Duck: One seen near Madison, Lac Qui Parle County, with a Mallard.

Green-winged Teal: Two pairs together on the shore of a lake near Herman. A fellow observer claims that he distinguished four more pair in the distance on the same lake, but this identification is questionable.

Shoveller: At least eight on two lakes near Herman and one near Hutchinson.

Pintail: Several scattered pairs.

Redhead: About twenty males together on a lake near Herman.

Lesser Scaup Duck: Five seen near Hutchinson. Fellow observer claims to have seen over a dozen on the same lake the Redheads were on, but they were probably too far out for positive identification.

Ruddy Duck: Common on all lakes visited near both Herman and Hutchinson. The abundance of this bird was a great surprise to me. They were present on at least ten lakes, sometimes twenty to thirty on one pond. All seen were males except one female with a brood of young at Herman, and a lone female at Hutchinson.

Krider's Hawk: One seen near Wheaton.

Prairie Chicken: Four seen near Clinton.

Hungarian Partridge: One flushed at Hutchinson.

Florida Gallinule: Several at Heron Lake, Jackson County.

Upland Plover: Common. Seven seen at two localities near Madison; others seen all along the way, two pairs as far east as Hutchinson.

Greater Yellow-legs: Several seen at one pond near Herman:

Lesser Yellow-legs: The great number of these non-breeding birds was astonishing. Several were seen at almost every stop except Heron Lake, and one flock at Graceville contained well over two hundred individuals.

Marbled Godwit: The finding of this bird was one of the main objects of the trip. They are known to be most numerous in Grant County in southern Minnesota, though nowhere do they approach being common. After much searching around Herman, which is in Grant County, a flock of eleven was finally located feeding on a mud flat on the shore of a small lake which is situated in the center of several areas of original unturned prairie, where these birds breed. The birds were rather tame, and presented a fine opportunity to watch them and study their feeding habits. They did considerable probing

with their long, recurved bills, but often picked up large insects on the surface of the mud, sometimes running fifteen or twenty yards after one in a hurried, amusing manner. When disturbed, they uttered a deep, full-toned, two-syllabled call.

Wilson's Phalarope: Three near Madison; one at Graceville displaying anxiety, apparently about young hiding in the grass, which could not be found.

Franklin's Gull: Common everywhere, often over prairie far from water.

Forster's Tern: Common everywhere.

Burrowing Owl: One flushed from its burrow (standing at the side) flew a block away, and when flushed again, returned directly to the hole. Another seen perching on a pole over ten feet from the ground.

Arkansas Kingbird: Common everywhere.

Cerulean Warbler: The finding of this supposed Carolinian bird was the greatest surprise of the trip, planned as it was for the observation of prairie birds. A male was singing in a woodland lot about six miles southeast of Litchfield. The song being unfamiliar, I began searching for the bird. Soon I caught short glimpses of a bird flitting about the upper branches of a tree. After a few minutes it appeared in a position giving an unobstructed view for a few seconds, in which time it was identified with ease, owing to its brilliant plumage. The song is quite distinctive, but it bears a general resemblance to that song of the Redstart which ends rather suddenly with a rising inflection, and it is more melodious.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: More common than Red-wings in many places.

Dickcissel: Surprisingly this bird of the fields was less common in western than in eastern Minnesota. It is a well-known fact that the distribution of this bird varies as much as many irregular winter visitants. 1930 was decidedly a "Dickcissel year" in the Twin Cities region, especially as compared with 1929, when they were comparatively rare here, but were much commoner in the western part of the state than in 1930, I was told. 1928 was a Dickcissel year in both the southeastern and southwestern parts.

Grasshopper Sparrow: More common than any other kind of sparrow except the Song Sparrow.

LeConte's Sparrow: One seen and heard at Graceville.

BIRDING IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

Gustav Swanson

When we left Minneapolis for Madison on Friday evening, May 23rd, I was looking forward to the trip with a great deal of pleasure, for I had never been into the typical prairie country of extreme western Minnesota, and there were several birds common in that territory which would be entirely new to me. Madison, as you perhaps know, is about 180 miles almost due west of the Twin Cities, in Lac Qui Parle County.

We arrived in Madison early Saturday morning and after a hearty breakfast we were taken out by Mrs. C. E. Peterson, the most enthusiastic and most active of the several bird-lovers in Madison. Mrs. Peterson very kindly took it upon herself to exhibit for us the birds of Lac Qui Parle County, and the first day we worked the southwestern portion of the county, leaving the northeast until the next day. In two days one can make but a very cursory survey of a tract as large as the county, and we were in the automobile most of the time, driving over 200 miles during the two days.

On Saturday the first interesting bird to be seen was the Golden Plover, one individual of which was found in a pasture only about 100 yards from the road. This plover is truly a beautiful bird. In bright sunlight the white on the side of the neck literally shines in contrast with the black underparts, and it must have made a very convenient target for the hunters of days gone by. Most of the other upland game birds are protectively colored, but the Golden Plover in spring plumage is about as conspicuous a bird as any gunner could wish. Mrs. Peterson had seen four plover only a few days before in the same general locality, but only one remained when we came through. Reports indicated that the Golden Plover is still a regular migrant in that section of the state.

Hardly had we stepped into the car to move on after watching the plover than we saw a Burrowing Owl at the entrance of its home. When we attempted to come closer for observation the owl went down and remained as long as we waited. The pair of birds at another burrow were, however, more accommodating. This burrow was only about twenty feet from the road, and when we stopped the car just

opposite it, the owl, which was standing on guard at the entrance, stood and glared at us for a minute or two before it finally flew away. While standing there it looked fully as dignified and as capable of keeping law and order as a policeman. It stood erect with chest thrown out and shoulders back staring at us as if attempting hypnotism with its large, bright yellow eyes. Soon after the first had flown its mate appeared from the burrow, and after looking us

over it too flew away. In flight, they resembled (aside from their smaller size) the Short-eared Owl.

A bird quite common on the prairie is the Upland Plover. Its ultra-graceful habit of very slowly and carefully folding its wings on alighting, and its strange song, a prolonged whistle somewhat quavering at the beginning, render it one of the most interesting sights on the prairie.

Perhaps the most abundant upland bird in the county is the Ring-necked Pheasant. Many of the farmers have begun to complain about the depredations of these birds in their crops, and undoubtedly they really do an appreciable amount of harm when they are found in such large numbers.

For years I had heard the crowing of the cock pheasant - a harsh cry suddenly uttered twice - and very often I had heard at the same time a sound as of wings flapping, but I had never succeeded in seeing the pheasant in the act until this Madison trip. While we were driving slowly a cock by the side of the road was obliging enough to crow in clear sight, and just as he crowed he flapped his wings, but without moving his body, and that finally solved once and for all my queries as to how this auxiliary sound was produced.

There is still quite a bit of virgin prairie left in the county and here some of the characteristic plants are the ground plum, and the Pomme de Terre, which translated means apple of the earth. On the same kind of prairie the Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows are common, and where the land was a little low Bobolinks were very abundant.

A few fields which had been flooded offered fine feeding grounds for shorebirds, but nothing more unusual than some Semipalmated Sandpipers, some Lesser Yellow-legs, a couple pair of Wilson Phalaropes, and a Red-backed Sandpiper were found there.

We visited several small lakes and ponds some of which had quite a few ducks among which were several of the spritely Ruddy Ducks, a Canvasback, and many Mallards, Shovelers, and Pintails. A few flocks of Franklin's Rosy Gull were also seen over these lakes.

On Sunday, which was to be our last day, we went to the northeastern part of the county to see Big Stone Lake, from which the Minnesota River has its source as a small stream. I believe that this is the only river of which I have seen both source and mouth. This part of the country is radically different from what we saw the day before. Here granite outcrops everywhere, and agriculture becomes

almost impossible in many places. Big Stone Lake is over twenty miles long and is several miles wide in some places, but the greatest depth according to official measurements taken lately is fifteen feet.

We visited also Lac Qui Parle, the lake which speaks, so-called because on a still day a voice can be heard with remarkable clearness for miles, the valley evidently acting as a natural amplifier in some way. When we were there a wind made it impossible for us to hear for ourselves this remarkable phenomenon. Lac Qui Parle, after which I presume the county was named, is merely a widening in the Minnesota River just as Lake Pepin is a widening in the Mississippi. On Lac Qui Parle I saw my first Forster's Terns, and from my short study of them I surely could not observe any very evident differences between them and the Common Terns. To me the two species are still indistinguishable in the field. However, the Common Tern is not found except as a stray in that western part of the state.

On looking over our records after the two day trip we found that we had observed 85 species of birds five of which were new to me, and the outing was declared to be a great success as we left just early enough to arrive in Minneapolis for breakfast on Monday.

FLYING SQUIRREL AT FORT SNELLING: Daylight had been well established on the morning of July 30th when I was surprised by a rather large object rapidly sailing through the woods at Fort Snelling. As soon as it alit on the trunk of a tree nearby I recognized it as a Southern Flying Squirrel. After watching it for some time, I discovered that it was going to its nest, which was small and composed of only a few, loose twigs, and was carrying its young, one by one, to another tree in the distance.

Its manner of progress, both while carrying the young and while returning for another, was to climb to the top of a tree, and then sail to the bottom of the trunk of the next, alighting head up after the fashion of a woodpecker with an audible thump. The trip was made three or four times while I was watching, and the squirrel took practically the same route of trees each time.

--- Alden Risser, St. Paul, Minnesota

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THE FLICKER

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November - December 1930

Minneapolis

Volume II, #6

At the regular November meeting of the Minnesota Bird Club Mr. W. J. Breckenridge was the speaker, telling about his experiences at the American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Salem, Massachusetts. Brief summaries were given of the important papers read at the AOU sessions and we were told about the exhibit of bird paintings which was held in connection with the meeting.

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At the regular December meeting Mr. Alden Risser spoke on the subject of the air sacs in birds and gave a demonstration on fresh specimens of House Sparrows to illustrate his remarks.

The members were urged to make winter field trips especially during the Christmas vacation period. Current bird notes were discussed with the result that this winter's bird records were found to be, on the whole, less exciting than usual.

THE 1930 CHRISTMAS CENSUS

Alden Risser

Below is a list of birds seen by sixteen members of the Minneapolis Bird Club within six days of Christmas, 1930. The first column of figures is the approximate number of individuals seen, while the second column is the number of localities in which the species was seen. Fourteen locations were visited, but the common species are reported from only ten of these.

1. American Merganser ---	76 2	22. Hairy Woodpecker ---	44 10
2. Red-breasted " ---	3 2	23. Downy Woodpecker ---	51 10
3. Mallard -----	20 4	24. Pileated Woodpecker	8 5
4. Pintail -----	1 1	25. Red-bellied " ---	1 1
5. Lesser Scaup Duck ---	21 3	26. Horned Lark -----	22 1
6. Ring-necked Duck ---	1 1	27. Blue Jay -----	118 10
7. Golden-eye Duck ---	202 2	28. Crow -----	3 2
8. Wilson's Snipe -----	5 2	29. Red-winged Blackb.	56 2
9. Bob-white -----	7 1	30. Rusty Blackbird ---	75 1
10. Ruffed Grouse -----	14 4	31. Bronzed Grackle ---	1 1
11. Pinnated Grouse ---	53 2	32. Goldfinch -----	17 3
12. Ring-n. Pheasant ---	124 9	33. Snow Bunting -----	5 2
13. Red-tailed Hawk ---	3 1	34. Lapland Longspur -	18 1
14. Bald Eagle -----	2 1	35. Tree Sparrow -----	313 9
15. Sparrow Hawk -----	2 1	36. Slate-c. Junco ---	24 5
16. Short-eared Owl ---	2 1	37. Cardinal -----	29 7
17. Barred Owl -----	2 2	38. Bohemian Waxwing -	53 2
18. Saw-whet Owl -----	2 2	39. Brown Creeper ---	14 4
19. Screech Owl -----	3 3	40. White-b. Nuthatch-	111 10
20. Great Horned Owl ---	4 3	41. Black-c. Chickadee-	189 10
21. Belted Kingfisher ---	1 1	42. Golden-c. Kinglet-	8 3

In addition to these, a Gadwall, Snowy Owl, and three Redpolls were seen on January 1st and on one of the census trips an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was suspected and probably seen, but it took refuge in a hollow tree before being fully identified.

The census is unusual in the numbers of ducks, seven or eight in all, contrasted with three in 1929. The list includes three species of hawks and five, or six, in all, of owls. It is also notable in the presence of the three kinds of blackbirds, and in the apparent increase in Pileated Woodpeckers and Cardinals. The scarcity of Quail and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, the latter usually common at one locality visited, is unusual. It is also strange that no Purple Finches or Northern Shrike were seen.

EXPERIENCES WITH A GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Marius Morse

During last fall's migration, I had observed occasionally a teal or two mingled with the large flocks of bluebills at Crystal Lake, Robbinsdale. Thanksgiving day had soon rolled around, and I supposed of course that the previously abundant ducks had all flown southward, the lake having frozen over two days before.

On Thanksgiving morning I happened to be skating around the edge of the lake with a friend of mine. We had been out but a short while when we suddenly noticed something struggling on the ice surface only a few feet ahead of us. We quickly skated to the spot and, to our surprise, found a small, beautifully marked duck frozen fast in the ice. His tail feathers and both wings were securely held under one inch of ice. With the aid of my jack-knife, I soon removed the bird from his helpless predicament and identified him as a male Green-winged Teal. So striking and beautiful was he with his reddish-brown head and brilliant green speculum that I immediately christened him "Beauty". I decided to keep him for a pet, although rather wary as to the degree of success I might have, since this would be my initial attempt to keep a wild bird in captivity.

I took "Beauty" home and prepared suitable living quarters for him in our wood bin. He was extremely shy and unfriendly the first few days, but gradually grew to trust me more every day. He refused to eat any food except when it was placed in water, so I found it necessary to give him his food in a tub of water. Try as hard as I might, I could find nothing that "Beauty" would eat except white bread, and this he relished contentedly whenever given to him. A slice of bread every day was enough to satisfy "Beauty's" appetite. At the end of two weeks, "Beauty" had learned to jump in the tub of water when I came to feed him and to take bread from the tips of my fingers in the water. I considered this bit of training quite an accomplishment for so wild a creature. Twice a week I took "Beauty" out on our screen porch to give him a little fresh air and general diversion. Our friendship was increasing steadily, and things seemed to be going along fine until one day fate stepped in to take a hand in affairs. On the morning of December 19th, exactly three weeks after I had rescued "Beauty" from a cold death, I went to the wood bin to find him lying lifeless in his tub of water. Just exactly what caused his death I was unable to determine. It might have been the fact that he didn't eat a sufficient variety of foods and it might not. Perhaps he was suffering from some injury I did not know about. Nevertheless, I am hoping for a little better luck the next time I attempt to keep a wild bird.

SUMMER BIRDS NEAR ONAMIA, MINNESOTA

E. D. Swedenborg

Eighty-seven miles northwest of Minneapolis and about five miles southeast of Onamia is a region that has been a source of ever increasing interest to me ever since we first began visiting there in the summer of 1923. Much like the surrounding country, outover land with mixed timber where only scattering pines now remain to remind you of their former abundance, it has one distinguishing feature. This is a spruce swamp, to anyone interested in birds, a veritable fairyland. Here a surprising number of Canadian species are found: Purple Finches, White Throats, Blackburnian, Mourning and Canada Warblers, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes. Certainly a place of interest to anyone living in the Transition zone. Though we have probably spent over a hundred days there in the past several summers I have always regretted that it has been possible to go there during June only for an occasional weekend, practically all the time spent there being the latter half of July and early August. This accounts for the number of young birds seen being fed and the comparatively few nests found.

Though Lake Mille Lacs is but a few miles away we have seldom gone to her, confining ourselves almost entirely to a small section of perhaps six square miles bounded on one side by the Rum River. The species included in the list have all been observed in this small region and the few additional species seen at the lake have been omitted as I do not feel that the brief time there has been sufficient to add anything of interest. Species seen only at a time when it was reasonable to suppose that they were migrating have also been omitted. Forty or more such species could be added but as it is intended to be a list of nesting birds these additional species would only lengthen the list without serving any purpose. Ninety species are included, 59 of them were seen feeding young or their nests were found.

It is not intended to be a complete list of the breeding birds of the vicinity but represents only our own observations. If but a small portion of the charm of this enchanting region can be imparted to the reader by a perusal of the following list the writer will feel repaid for compiling the same from his records.

Black Tern: A fed, including young, seen at the Rum River.

Bittern: Seen twice at the Rum River: 7-27-1926 & 5-25-1930.

Great Blue Heron: Seen several times at the Rum River and flying over the cottage.

Spotted Sandpiper: A few seen at the Rum River each summer.

Killdeer: Seen each summer at the river and on the fields.

Ruffed Grouse: Present each summer in the wooded sections, with young.

Mourning Dove: Surprisingly scarce; only seen five times.

Marsh Hawk: Quite numerous; young seen several times during July 1925 and 1926.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Single birds seen, May 20, 1928 and during August 1924 and 1927.

Red-tailed Hawk: One seen July 1926.

Broad-winged Hawk: Seen every summer and probably the most numerous member of the family,

Sparrow Hawk: A pair seen several times about a mile from the cottage during July 1925.

Barred Owl: Two seen together in the spruce swamp, 8-26-1928.

Great Horned Owl: One seen May 24, 1930 and heard several other times.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Nest, with three young and an egg was found June 29, 1930. Only one seen one other time.

Belted Kingfisher: Seen at the Run River almost every summer. A family, young apparently just out of the nest, July 31, 1928.

Hairy Woodpecker: Quite common. A family group seen 7-26-1926.

Downy Woodpecker: Not as common as the preceding species but seen every summer.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Numerous, with young, each summer.

Northern Pileated Woodpecker: Not very common but always present.

Red-headed Woodpecker: The most numerous woodpecker, several families seen each season.

Northern Flicker: Not common but present every summer.

Whip-poor-will: Present during July 1926 and 1928. One called 179 times without stopping on the evening of July 22, 1926.

Nighthawk: Never numerous but a few seen flying overhead almost every season.

Chimney Swift: Quite common.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Common. Seen in the heart of the spruce swamp.

Kingbird: Common; young out of nest July 25, 1926, March 25, 1928 et cetera.

Crested Flycatcher: Common; young being fed July 29, 1926 and at other times.

Phoebe: Common. Nest, four young June 12, 1930. Same nest had four eggs on June 28, 1930.

Wood Pewee: Common; young out of nest August 1, 1928.

Alder Flycatcher: Common. Nest, two young, July 19, 1926.

Least Flycatcher: It is difficult to say which is the most numerous flycatcher but I believe the Least Flycatcher is and the Crested Flycatcher the least numerous. Young Least Flycatchers were seen out of the nest during July 1928 and at other times.

Blue Jay: Not very numerous but present each season.

Crow: Quite common with young each season.

Bobolink: A few seen each summer. Young out of the nest on July 15, 1928 et cetera.

Cowbird: A very few adult birds seen but young are numerous each summer. Have seen them fed by Song Sparrows, Red-eyed Vireos, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Maryland Yellowthroats.

Red-winged Blackbird: Not numerous but a few seen each year. Young seen during July 1926 and 1928.

Western Meadowlark: Both species present. Young seen each season.

Baltimore Oriole: Not very common. Young seen July 1926, 1928, et cetera.

Bronzed Grackle: Not common; young being fed, July 1926.

Purple Finch: A few present each season. Young seen, 7-1928.

Goldfinch: Common. Nest, four young, two eggs seen on August 16, 1924. A few other nests also located.

English Sparrow: Quite numerous around farm buildings.

Vesper Sparrow: Nest to the Song Sparrow, the most numerous member of the family. Nest, three eggs, found on May 24, 1930.

Savannah Sparrow: Quite numerous in the meadows.

White-throated Sparrow: Numerous in the spruce swamp. Young out of the nest but unable to fly on July 23, 1928.

Chipping Sparrow: Common. Young seen, being fed, each season. Was surprised to find this city-dweller throughout the spruce swamp.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Not as common as the "Chippy" but present each season. Young being fed in July 1928.

Song Sparrow: The most abundant species; seen everywhere, with young. Nest, five eggs, May 4, 1930.

Swamp Sparrow: Not numerous but present each summer in the low meadows.

Towhee: A few seen each summer. Young, out of nest, being fed on July 26, 1926 and at other times.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Never common; not seen at all some seasons. Young being fed seen on July 30, 1928.

Indigo Bunting: Only seen once, July 22, 1925, at which time we also saw a young bird.

Scarlet Tanager: Present each July; several pairs seen during July 1928.

Purple Martin: Several small colonies in the region.

Barn Swallow: The most numerous swallow. Several nests were found, the latest with young on August 28, 1927.

Tree Swallow: Not very numerous. A family seen perched in a dead tree in a meadow on July 31, 1928.

Bank Swallow: Seen a few times but have not located any nests.

Cedar Waxwing: Quite common, especially in 1924. Nest with five eggs, August 11, 1924; hatched on August 19, 1924.

Red-eyed Vireo: Commonest vireo. Young, being fed, were seen on July 28, 1928 and at other times.

Warbling Vireo: Not common but undoubtedly nests there as we have seen the species several times.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Not numerous; young being fed on July 28, 1928.

Black and White Warbler: Quite common. A nest, with four young ready to leave, was found by S. A. Grimes and the writer, on July 21, 1929.

Golden-winged Warbler: Was surprised to find this beautiful warbler, so uncommon at Minneapolis, quite numerous in this section. Not seen very often in the spruce swamp but at times almost common in the scrubby underbrush, where the Chestnut-sided Warbler is also numerous. Young seen, being fed, on July 7, 1927, July 21, 1929, etc.

Nashville Warbler: Seen several times. Young, out of the nest, being fed on July 31, 1926, August 2, 1928, et cetera.

Yellow Warbler: Not common. A nest, which the young left while we watched on July 21, 1926.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Common. Nest, two young warblers and a Cowbird, July 22, 1926.

Blackburnian Warbler: Quite common in the spruce swamp, where S. A. Grimes and the writer found a nest with four young, July 21, 1929.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Next to the Maryland Yellowthroat the most numerous warbler. Young, being fed, found on July 30, 1926, July 15, 1928, et cetera.

Pine Warbler: A pair seen July 25, 1926 and again July 21, 1929.

Ovenbird: Not numerous. Young seen July 1925.

Mourning Warbler: Not common, but present each summer. Young seen, being fed, July 28, 1926, July 29, 1928, et cetera.

Maryland Yellowthroat: This species and the Redstart are the most numerous warblers. Young seen each summer.

Canada Warbler: Seen only once; a young bird being fed by an adult on July 31, 1925.

Redstart: Common. Young being fed July 29, 1926, July 30, 1928.

Catbird: Quite common, with young, each summer.

Brown Thrasher: Surprisingly scarce, having only seen individual bird three times.

House Wren: Very common, families popping out of almost every brush pile. Nest, young, July 19, 1925; nest eggs hatching 7-21-1929.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Quite common in the wet meadows. Young seen, being fed, several times and an adult was flushed from an empty nest on June 28, 1930

Brown Creeper: A pair seen in the spruce swamp on August 1, 1928. These may have been migrants but the date seems rather early as they seldom appear at Minneapolis before the last half of September.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Not very common but always present.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Two seen on August 25, 1927, a male and a female about a quarter of a mile apart. Like the Brown Creepers they may have been migrants.

Chickadee: Common, with young.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Nests in the spruce swamp. Young seen being fed during 1926, 1927, 1929 and 1930 and a nest with nine young birds located in the top of a spruce on July 26, 1928.

Wood Thrush: A pair was seen near the cottage on July 19, 1925, and for a few days thereafter.

Veery: A few seen each summer.

Hermit Thrush: Quite numerous in the swamp. Young being fed on July 30, 1926 and August 1, 1928.

Robin: Common; several nests found, one on the ground, on May 25, 1929.

Bluebird: Most numerous thrush. Nest with five eggs was found on June 28, 1930.

--- Minneapolis, Minnesota

NOTE

The Flicker for 1931 will be issued only four times, twice before, and twice after the summer vacation period.

SHORT-EARED OWL

Short-eared Owl records in winter do not seem to be common in Minnesota, so two records may be of interest. Two specimens were examined through the courtesy of Mr. George Packer, superintendent of the state game farm near St. James, Minnesota. Many raptorial birds are shot at the game farm in protection of the game birds there being raised, and among them this winter were two Short-eared Owls, taken about February 3rd and 24th, 1931 (Strnad: should this be 1930?)

Gustav Swanson