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THE FLICKER  
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President, Gustav Swanson, 3305 - 47th Avenue S., Minneapolis  
Vice-President, Stanley Stein, Shakopee  
Secretary - Treasurer, Marius Morse, 4031 - 40th Avenue N. Robbinsdale  
Editor, Alden Risser, 1012 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul  
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This month the Minnesota Bird Club and the FLICKER jointly celebrate their fourth birthday, for both were founded by our president, Mr. Gustav Swanson, in February 1929. The constitution of our organization states that its purpose is to foster the study of bird life in Minnesota. Whether this was the sold motive which stimulated Mr. Swanson to organize the institution is a matter of conjecture, but the fact remains that it has succeeded in doing more than this. It has reached out and gathered together many young men having a common interest, with the result that many firm and lasting friendships have been formed; monthly meetings provide good fellowship as well as entertainment and opportunity for pursuing the ornithological activities of others; and the occasional field trips in which a large part of the local membership has participated have afforded not a few of the good times and thrilling experiences that stand out in our memory of the past.

So it is obvious that those of us who live near enough to Minneapolis to attend the meetings have benefited from the existence of the Minnesota Bird Club more than those who keep in touch with us solely through this, our magazine; thus we believe that every effort should be made to make it more attractive and more interesting. To this end the editor will be glad to receive any suggestions for improving the FLICKER.

At the close of each year since its existence, there has been a surplus in the club's treasury; therefore, the success of the FLICKER is limited not by financial status of the club, but by the number of contributions received.

With this number we are initiating a new department entitled "Here and There" consisting of short notes on birds and other phases of natural history. The appearance of short articles in the FLICKER is not a new institution, but we believe the popularity of this type of literature warrants giving it more prominence and emphasis. All available material for this department is being exhausted in the synthesis of the present number; so its continuance in the future depends on whether you contribute to it.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT A BANDING STATION

By Stanley Stein

For the eight years prior to 1931 I did a good portion of my bird work in the territory lying along the south bank of the Minnesota River at Shakopee. In this time I found that the region was a popular Spring migration route. Members of the sparrow tribe in particular were very common, although on occasions warblers and thrushes were present in satisfying numbers. In the fall migration birds were much less common, sparrows making up the bulk of the numbers, although even they were fewer than in the spring. During the summer months a fairly representative list of summer residents made their home in the vicinity. Gradually I became more and more sure that it would be possible to establish a successful banding station there.

In the fall of 1931 I began operation of a station. The station is located on a rectangular shaped plat of ground about two acres in extent lying along the south bank of the river. On the east the station is bounded by a creek, and on the south and west by city streets. Possibly "city streets" isn't the proper term to use because the station is really bounded by backs of houses and alleys. Part of the land is privately owned, and part of it is public property, yet to all practical purposes it is a "no man's land". With the exception of a small garden plot, the area is waste land. The eastern half of the area is covered with a dense growth of weeds, while the western part is wooded, chiefly with willow and soft maple. A strip about thirty feet wide lying along the bank of the river is brush covered.

Not long after I began my station, I found that banding work wasn't entirely placing bands on birds' legs; not at my station at least. All the reports of activities at banding stations that I have read consist entirely of descriptions of the traps used, the bait that the operator prefers, the birds captured, a long list of returns, and other scientific data compiled at the station. These articles remind me of the laboratory reports rendered by chemistry students; merely a dry stereotyped statement of procedure and results, giving the uninitiated the idea that chemistry lab is akin to King Tut's tomb. They give the reader no inkling of the fun found in carrying out the various steps of the procedure, no idea of the jokes circulating about the room, nor any glimmering of the laughable "blockhead" errors made in the work. It is my intention to take the reader behind the scenes at my station.

The station is unfortunately located a full half-mile from my home, and as mentioned above, in a "no man's land". This combination has led to difficulties - some of them very

difficult. On occasions it happens that I cannot visit my traps for several days. When such is the case, I leave the traps in position but adjust them in such a way that birds cannot be caught. A plentiful supply of grain is placed in the traps that the birds may become used to feeding in them. On visiting my traps after leaving them in this manner for the first time I became extremely peeved at finding a government sparrow trap resembling a pancake in shape, and about as useless for capturing birds as pancakes are for eating purposes. Upon other occasions this method of destroying a was varied by expanding them in various shapes. Then again one day I located a lost sparrow trap in the river. A few inches of the end of the trap extended above the water. By using a long pole I rescued the trap. Finding this trap in the river gave me a clue to the whereabouts of two other traps which are missing from the fold. All I need now is a diving suit. I have found that these depredations are carried out by youngsters, not with any malice toward me, but merely for the devilment of the thing. A bit of education through the assistance of the scout troop has alleviated the condition somewhat.

All my trouble, though, didn't come from people destroying the traps. In one case I had a well-meaning assistant, unknown to me, who tried to help me operate the traps, but caused a bit of trouble for a few days. It happened that upon two occasions last Spring, after leaving my traps without attention for a few days, I found dead birds in them, a total of four. I was quite certain that I had released the traps on the occasion of my last visit; therefore, the only remaining possibility was that someone had set the traps. That evening I stayed at the station hoping to meet my unknown assistant. Early in the evening an elderly gentleman made his appearance. I knew the man and was acquainted with the fact that he was accustomed to taking an evening walk along the river bank. From my vantage point I was surprised to see him visit the two afore mentioned traps and set them. Apparently they were the only ones of which he knew the location. When I approached him, he explained that he often visited the traps to look at the birds which they held but lately they had never been set, and he, thinking that some of the young roughnecks about town had released them, did me the courtesy of resetting them. After I explained why the traps were not set, and the damage that had been done, he agreed not to bother to reset the traps again. I am pleased to say that the four birds mentioned above were the only ones which were harmed at my station.

Not long after I started trapping birds, rats became a nuisance. In attempting to obtain the grain used for bait they would dig under the traps often undermining them to such an extent that the traps would tumble over. Usually the rats worked at night and so were no great menace to the birds contained in the traps, but the removal of the bait and the tunnels under the traps interfered greatly with banding. It

has been my custom to visit the traps after dark making sure that no birds were contained in them, and carefully re-setting and baiting the traps, so that they would be ready to capture birds early in the morning of the following day. Of course the tunnels under the traps allowed the birds that were captured to escape. In an attempt to circumvent the escape of birds I covered the bottoms of the traps with wire netting. These bottoms were partially successful in that they kept the birds from escaping, and protected the birds in the traps, but they did not prevent the rats from consuming the bait. At present I am contemplating putting tin bottoms on the traps.

Some time ago I was explaining to a visitor how the rats bothered the station. He, innocently enough, suggested that I turn a few cats into the area and allow them to take care of the rats. I controlled my emotions and expressed my opinion that it wouldn't work out very well. Cats don't need any encouragement to come to my station. Most of the stray cats in town come to visit me. In order to protect the birds, I tried using a cat proof fence. This method is satisfactory while operating traps in a fixed location, but the method under which I operate is somewhat different. I use about ten traps, and often change their location depending upon the season of the year and the species I am attempting to trap. Under these conditions it is almost impossible to use fences; therefore, rather than attempt to keep the cats away from the traps I decided to remove the cats. This undertaking gave me a great deal of satisfaction because in my estimation the only good cat is a dead cat. It was not a difficult job to construct an efficient cat trap. By using a particularly good bait consisting of putrid meat seasoned with catnip, I caught seven cats in short order. Occasionally I carry a small caliber rifle on the rounds of my traps much to the inconvenience of several cats. Most of the cats were characteristic strays; huge, lean, dirty, vicious animals, but some of them were apparently well-kept individuals; but to me a cat is just a cat. Every time I see one my trigger finger starts to itch. At present the taking of a cat at my station is a rare event.

This spring I had occasion to deal with a different sort of predator. On several occasions I flushed a Sharp-shinned Hawk from the vicinity of a certain trap. I couldn't determine whether the hawk was taking any birds or not, but a few days later when visiting that particular trap the hawk flushed from in front of the trap carrying something in its talons. The hawk lit in a nearby tree, and with my glasses I saw that it had captured a sparrow of some sort. I left to obtain a small shotgun. When I returned the hawk was still in the same tree busily engaged in plucking its prey. I shot the hawk and also obtained the remains of the small bird. It was a White-crowned Sparrow. I gave the hawk to a local taxidermist.

The tables at the end of this article indicate the number of birds banded at my station. The table for 1931 begins with June, the first month that I engaged in banding work. During the Fall not many birds were banded due to the small number of traps in use. During the winter I had the opportunity to construct eight more traps giving me a total of a dozen. About the middle of April birds began to arrive in considerable numbers. Tree Sparrows and juncos became very common. I was interested in obtaining a return on a Tree Sparrow banded in November. As will be noticed by referring to the chart it was the only Tree Sparrow banded in 1931. Although sixty Song Sparrows were captured in April no returns were obtained from those banded in the Fall of 1931.

May, of course, proved to be the best month, both in regard to the number of individuals and number of species banded. During May a water trap was put into operation, and proved very popular with warblers and thrushes. One afternoon as I came up to the water trap a Woodcock flushed from beside the trap. In the soft ground, caused by the overflow from the water pan, I found the marks made by the bird probing for food. I removed the marks and leveled the ground so that if the bird came back, it would leave a fresh record, but apparently he never returned.

The great difference in the numbers of birds banded in May and June is due, not to the lack of birds, but to the diminished amount of time put into the work. April and May were the only months during which the traps were operated on a full time schedule. During the following months the traps were operated for two hours early each morning and week-ends. The Fall migration as usual was small. It is interesting to note the small number of juncos and Tree Sparrows banded, as compared with those banded in the Spring. Upon inquiring at other stations I found that it seems to be characteristic of juncos and Tree Sparrows to be more difficult to trap in the Fall than in the Spring.

To me banding has proved very interesting. Until you have experienced the sensation of adding a new bird to the list of those banded at your station you haven't had all the joy to be found in bird study. If you desire to derive the highest degree of interest from your bird work, there is only one way to do it -- start a banding station.

Number of Month	1931						1932						TOTAL				
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9
Green Heron		4															4
Bob-White												1					1
Hairy Woodpecker						3	1										4
Downy Woodpecker						3											3
Phoebe	1																1
Least Flycatcher													1				1
Horned Lark										3							3
Crested Flycatcher														1			1
Bank Swallow	8	6															14
Rough-w'd Swallow	1																1
Purple Martin														1			1
Blue Jay			1	1								5					7
Crow	1																1
Chickadee						1	1		2	1							5
White-b. Nuthatch						2	1		1	1							5
House Wren	7										1	8	1				17
Catbird											8	8	4	1			16
Brown Thrasher			1							1	5	5	5	1			13
Robin	1		1								6	3	9				20
Wood Thrush											1	2					3
Hermit Thrush																1	1
Bluebird	3											6		1			10
Ruby-c. Kinglet											1						1
Orange-c. Warbler											8						8
Nashville Warbler											2						2
Yellow Warbler											5						5
Magnolia Warbler											2						2
Myrtle Warbler											1						1
N. Yellow-throat											2						2
Redstart														1	1		2
Bronzed Grackle											11			2			13
Cowbird												7	1				8
Baltimore Oriole											3	1					4
Cardinal						1											1
Rose-b. Grosbeak											2						2
Goldfinch											1						1
<b>Junco</b>						4			3	1	260					3	73
Tree Sparrow						1					1051						62
Chipping Sparrow												1					1
Harris's Sparrow					2	2					5			1	4		14
White-cr. Sparrow											3						3
Gambol's Sparrow											9						9
White-thr. Sparrow					6						13125			1822			184
Fox Sparrow											2					2	9
Lincoln's Sparrow											1			1	1		3
Swamp Sparrow											710						17
Song Sparrow			16	2	3	33		2			860	7	1	817	14		141
Totals (47 species)	10	22	18	4	11	20	3	5	42	42	2-1828	1237	45				680

0929

Error: all the 1932 figures for the White-throated Sparrow should be in the month following those given, ie. 13 in April; 125 in May; 18 in September; and 22 in October.

April 29, 1932. It was a dull day; the sky overcast and very little wind. But, if the day was dull, there was nothing dull about the noisy and very active Flicker that came to inspect the weather-worn old trees that line the street in front of our house. One old Box-elder tree is badly broken and has a stubby branch on the south side. Downy Woodpeckers and chickadees have nested in it, and every summer for some time the wind has taken off a section. The Flicker came again and again and finally decided on the broken branch of the worn old tree. Before the day was done he began excavating, and how the chips did fly! Soon the entrance was made, and gradually a hole inside the branch was formed. Early and late he hammered away. For four long days he was almost too busy to stop to eat, and not a single minute was wasted.

On May 3rd, early in the forenoon, Mr. Flicker announced to the world that his house was completed and needed only a mistress to make a fine home of it. All day he broadcasted and only a Flicker can contrive so much noise. He must have succeeded in reaching the ear of an unattached lady since one came on May 4th to inspect his house and listen to his pleadings. She was evidently impressed by its worthiness, the pleasant location, and his affability.

They spent several busy and happy days at their courting, and then Mrs. Flicker settled down to her household duties. She proved to be most patient and faithful. Every morning Mr. Flicker would announce his arrival with a loud raucus call; Mrs. Flicker would rap on the inside wall of the nest; Mr. Flicker would answer more gently; and then Mrs. Flicker would come out. They always spent a minute or two in earnest conversation. Perhaps Mrs. Flicker was giving her mate careful instructions for the time she would be gone. Then she would go away for an hour. Mr. Flicker was most comical at these times. Plainly, he was impatient and evidently liked household duties no better than other males. About every five minutes he would stick his head out and, as plain as though in English, would yell, "Hurry up! hurry up!" Sometimes he became so impatient it seemed as though he would leave the nest, but he never dared do that.

All through May and June and until July 12th they spent their time thus. No baby birds came to be fed and cared for, and at last they seemed to become discouraged. Up until the evening of July 14th they still spent most of their time in the nest, but on the morning of July 15th they were gone and did not return. July 18th a snow-white egg shell was found at the foot of the tree, but there was no life in the nest and no noisy and happy Flickers about the trees. Perhaps an inquisitive Red Squirrel had been in the vacated nest and thrown the shell out.

THE EXPEDITION TO FRONTENAC

By Alden Risser

Part of the November meeting and most of the December meeting of our illustrious organization were spent in making plans for a group trip to Frontenac on December 26-27. Of the 14 who planned to go on this expedition, only 6 actually went, namely, Robert Upson, Ralph Eisele, Charles Du Toit, Alden Risser, Gustav Swanson and John Jones; and of these only the first four went down the first day as was originally planned. Most of the rest were suffering from an unfortunate and untimely affliction of influenza. The trip, however, was such a success for the few who participated that it surely deserves a page in the FLICKER, as have the other excursions of the club.

As we were leaving the town of Frontenac on our homeward journey, we learned that the village bank had recently failed. This cleared up many things in our minds, for it gave us something on which to blame the facts that the ice cream was made of sand; that the beans were flavored with peanut butter; that the peanut butter was made of green acorns; that there was one blanket apiece in the cabin we rented; that the wood produced no heat when burned; and that the drinking water was opaque. I don't know whether it was the fine weather, the exceptionally good birding, or our general amiability which was the source of the cheerful spirit that led us to accept our seemingly pitiable circumstances as jokes rather than tragedies. Any way we laughed it off and had a good time.

On Monday we scoured all the woods and fields in the vicinity, and on Tuesday, Swanson and Jones came down and saw most of the 26 birds we had seen in addition to a Prairie Chicken, while we went up to spend the afternoon at Hastings. Below is a list of the birds seen in the two days. All of these were seen on Monday, the census day, except the Gull, the 4 species of ducks, the Prairie Chicken and the Grackle.

Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Starling (4)
Black Duck	Red-bellied "	Red-w'd Blackbird (40)
Golden-eye (200)	Red-headed "	Bronzed Grackle
Am. Merganser	Hairy Woodpecker	Cardinal
Ruffed Grouse	Downy Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Prairie Chicken	Ring-n. Pheasant	Pine Siskin (56)
Wilson's Snipe	Blue Jay	Goldfinch
Herring Gull	Crow	Slate-c. Junco
Barred Owl	Black-c. Chickadee	Tree Sparrow
Flicker	White-b. Nuthatch	Lapland Longspur
Horned Lark	Brown Creeper	Snow Bunting (170)

THE GOLDFINCH

Whoever walks in hillside pastures  
Where mullein, thistle, and vervain grow  
There the crocus springs from last year's  
Root, and winds, in summer, softly blow;  
In August, finds the bird of living gold,  
The bird of Happiness.

Atilt on swaying bloom, he lightly swings,  
Or from a thistle-head pulls out white down,  
And piling it high on back and wings,  
He bobs and bows, a Happy Clown;  
His genial soul, in ecstasy, o'erflows;  
A flood of Cheerfulness.

As in wide arcs, he bounds away,  
His cheerful voice comes lilting o'er the air;  
So blithe his spirit; his heart so gay;  
His summer days so bright and fair;  
That, August finds it hard to hold.  
Such store of Joyfulness.

Tristis

So plaintive is his voice in the fall,  
High among the leaves of gold and green;  
So sweet and sad his mournful call  
As still, atop the tree, he sits unseen;  
His heart laments and liberates his grief  
In wistful cries. His ardent soul cast down,  
He mourns the summer, all too brief,  
And clothes himself in sober brown.

--- Nellie Ottman Wilson.

HERE AND THERE

FROM OUT OF THE FOREST. -- It was the evening of June 27th. We had come to the end of our trail - at the edge of a beautiful lake, surrounded by forest. Shadows of the night were falling fast. Our campfire was already blazing high. I slipped into the nearby woods for a few extra logs to replenish our fuel supply. It was quiet - deathly quiet. I paused to listen.

The silence was suddenly broken by the song of a Veery, apparently coming from deep within the woods. I waited - again the song, this time plainer and seemingly closer. But I could not be sure. For fully five minutes the Veery repeated its peculiar, resonant, rolling notes. How I admired the wild, ringing song. What a sight it must be to see the bird, singing in all its glory.

I turned to go. A loud "pheeow" sounded from a tree a few feet away. I looked and saw what I believed to have been far away -- a Veery, perched on a large branch, silhouetted against the fading light that yet shone through the forest trees. Again the song of the Veery resounded through the stillness. I watched, saw the bird lift high his head and give vent to its weird, half-whistled notes.

But now, from out of the depths, came the clear, soft whistled notes of the Whippoorwill. For about three minutes the notes were repeated again and again, with no pause. Then I attempted to trace the bird, but it ceased its song for a moment. Again I heard its enchanting notes, but this time from deep back in the forest a half mile or more.

--- Marius Morse.

A RECOLLECTION. -- The quiet and ventriloquial singing of this Veery reminds me of a visit to a Black-billed Cuckoo's nest which I will never forget. The bird was on the nest and was very tame; it allowed me to stand four feet from it for several minutes. At first everything was still, but after a minute I was amazed to hear a quiet and pretty song given in an undertone with the bill closed; I was amazed not only because the bird should sing under these circumstances, but because it was the only time in my life I have heard a cuckoo utter notes which could be called beautiful. Although they followed in a very general way the ordinary notes of a cuckoo's song, they were so light and rippling that when I later heard a Veery's song for the first time, I thought it was a cuckoo.

--- Alden Rissler.

MY MOST INTERESTING FALL MIGRATION DATES, 1932. -- From St. Paul and vicinity:

September 6th, first Winter Wren.  
September 15th, first Junco  
October 15th, last Catbird  
November 11th, last Song Sparrows.  
November 26th, first Goshawk.

--- A. C. Rosenwinkel.

LADY DOVE'S DUPLEX -- One always welcomes the return of the gentle Turtle Dove in early spring, for what bird is more calm and courteous through the nesting season? Their honeymoon continues although domestic responsibilities are heaped upon them.

To find a pair building in my yard on May 4th was very gratifying, but how could a lady and gentleman of refined manners choose a site in the same tree and quite near a Flicker's hole, which was already spoken for? Lady Dove planned beautifully and well. On May 13th two eggs were in the nest, and by June 9th the nest was empty.

The Flickers were in and about their hole after April 14th, now pecking inside, sometimes drumming noisily on the tin atop his house, and sometimes just looking out of his hole. Not until June 19th did we hear the young, and by June 27th the young had their heads out of the hole calling for food. On July 2nd, all was quiet; the family had left.

About the middle of July Lord and Lady Turtle Dove were busy about their former home and built another nest just above the first one and so close that it was supported by it. On July 18th two eggs were in the upper story of the duplex, and so their cares continued through the season.

Who could plan better to eliminate the almost continuous irritating calls of seven young Flickers and their parents who were their noisy neighbors, and raise their children in the peace and quiet of a Turtle Dove's home?

--- Mrs. C. E. Peterson.

NOT EASILY DISCOURAGED -- While looking about for birds in a small woodland grove, May 21st, I discovered a Yellow Warbler nest, at the bottom of which lay one warbler and one Cowbird egg. Part of the bottom had been torn up, and I concluded that the nest had undoubtedly been deserted. I pulled it from the bush where it had been firmly attached and took it to a nearby tree to examine.

As I sat down, I noticed a female Yellow Warbler fly to the bush where the nest had been and begin to pull and twist in an effort to loosen a few hanging threads. At first, I thought that the bird had simply chanced to "spot" these threads and was taking them to her nest for use in construction. Then a new thought dawned upon me. Why couldn't this bird be the owner of the nest I had torn out?

To prove my theory, I walked to the bush and replaced the nest in approximately its original position. Then I retreated a few feet away. In a short minute Mrs. Warbler had come back. She spied the nest and looked excitedly to her left and right. Then without further hesitation, she jumped into the nest and began to shape it with her body, her bill working industriously all the while pulling small threads around the twigs at the side of the nest. As long as I remained, for fifteen minutes, the Yellow Warbler was working on the nest, carefully and patiently.

--- Marius Morse

THE LAKE HARRIET SWAN -- We didn't hear of the Whistling Swan which arrived at Lake Harriet, Minneapolis, on December 1st until two days later (the last day it was seen there), but when the glad news reached us, we decided to make a trip thereto. John Dobie furnished the transportation, and Chuck Evans and I furnished the unharmonious noise which is so characteristic of such expeditions. When we arrived, the snow-white bird was gracefully swimming among the hundred Mallards, Scaups, Ring-necks, and Golden-eyes in a very small patch of open water not more than 200 yards from shore.

The spectacle had attracted numerous observers of all types, most of whom were amazed to hear that these were wild birds. One of these was further overwhelmed to learn that swans could fly - he wondered how it got there. Another person insisted that the presence of the birds must have some significance regarding the weather for the rest of the winter. But the prize of them all was a youthful individual who wondered how the swan happened to be alone, without a mate. He stood in deep meditation for a minute, and then a flash of intelligence appeared on his face: "May be that is the mate."

--- Alden Risser.

BIRDS AND AUTOMOBILES -- The past summer, while traveling through Wisconsin on a well-traveled highway, I made note of dead birds observed on the road for two ten mile stretches and one five mile stretch. After averaging the three sets of data, I found that there were exactly one dead bird for each mile of highway. English Sparrows were included in the count.

-- Marius Morse

BIRDS AND AUTOMOBILES -- A 115 mile hike along a highway (August 25th - 27th) offered a good opportunity to take note of birds killed along the road. I didn't start to keep a list of the dead birds until I had walked about 40 miles, but for the remaining 75 miles I counted 26 birds representing 14 species. All these birds were on the shoulder of the road except a Sparrow Hawk, which was on the pavement.

It is interesting to compare the small number seen on this trip during the molting season, with Mr. Morse's report above. In reality the contrast is even greater than it seems, for while I saw an average of one bird in about three miles to his "bird a mile", most of those I saw were small birds on the shoulder and would not have been noticed from an automobile. Almost all of the birds were immature.

The list follows. Incidentally, this is the first known occurrence of the Chestnut-collared Longspur in eastern Minn.

English Sparrow -----	6	Black-billed Cuckoo -----	1
Ring-necked Pheasant -	3	Ruby-t. Hummingbird -----	1
Bluebird -----	3	Robin -----	1
Red-headed Woodpecker+	2	Migrant Shrike -----	1
Goldfinch -----	2	Nashville Warbler -----	1
Savannah Sparrow -----	2	Red-winged Blackbird -----	1
Sparrow Hawk -----	1	Chestnut-c. Longspur -----	1

--- Alden Risser

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by the

MINNESOTA BIRD CLUB

President, Gustav Swanson, 3305 - 47th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Vice-President, Stanley Stein, Shakopee

Secretary - Treasurer, Marius Morse, 4031 - 40th Ave. N.

Robbinsdale

Editor, Alden Risser, 1012 Laurel Ave., St. Paul

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The regular March meeting was held on the ninth of that month. The meeting was opened with reports of early spring migrants and several Horned Owls' nests seen by the members. By special request Marius Morse gave his exquisite imitation of the Yellow-headed Blackbird's song. This was followed by Charles Evans' vivid recital of the Bittern's call. The main feature of the evening was the exhibition of numerous, exceptionally artistic photographs by Dr. R. W. Dawson, Stanley Stein and John Dobie.

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On April 13th we again assembled at our meeting place in the University Museum. There was the usual exchange of current bird news. It was decided to postpone the re-election of officers until the end of the meeting.

Mr. William Kilgore gave the talk of the evening, and it is needless to say that he was very entertaining. It is certainly unusual to hear a man who has so fine a command of the English language that he can express his thoughts both *beautifully and simply*. Before his main talk, Mr. Kilgore told of his annual pilgrimage to the Woodcocks' breeding grounds at Fort Snelling, where the crepuscular flight song is to be heard. Then he gave a talk about what he and all of us prefer calling bird books to ornithological literature, which was as interesting as it was educational.

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Ralph Woolsey will write up the 1933 nesting season for the next number of the FLICKER. It will be appreciated if you cooperate by sending your nesting dates, with pertinent observations, to him (addressed to Shakopee, Minn.) by August at the very latest.

THE GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET AT HOME

By E. D. Swedenborg

The Golden-crowned Kinglet is a bird that has given me more pleasure than any of the numerous species of "Canadian" birds nesting in our northern woods. This is probably because I have had far more than my share of luck with it. Since I first experienced the ecstatic joy of locating an occupied nest on July 26, 1928, I have been fortunate enough to discover three others. Three of these nests were found in a black spruce swamp not far from Onamia in Mille Lacs County. The fourth was found on high ground near the Brule River in Cook County.

The Mille Lacs nests were found in almost identical situations and differed very slightly from one another in construction. They were all placed in the dense "baskets" near the tops of black spruces. Each tree seemed about thirty-five feet high, and the nests were placed about three or four feet from the top and close to the trunk. They were rather large for such a small bird, not surprising, however, when the size of the family is considered. The nests were indescribably beautiful, made of green mosses and lined with feathers and rootlets.

The Brule River nest was entirely different both in construction and situation. It was placed at least forty feet from the ground in a tall white spruce, far out near the end of the branch, and was in plain view from the ground below. It was a perfectly pensive nest, entirely unsupported by any twigs or branches underneath. It was the most difficult nest to examine, but from a branch above it seemed to be lined with rootlets, no feathers.

The contents of the nests have varied quite a little. The first Mille Lacs nest, found July 26, 1928, contained nine well developed young birds, which left the nest on the 29th. The second nest located in this swamp was found on May 29, 1932, and held nine eggs. The other Mille Lacs nest was the home of at least nine young. They scattered like a covey of quail when I shook the tree slightly before climbing. This nest was found June 20, 1932. The Brule River nest was seen on June 18, 1930 and contained an unusually small family, only five young birds, which seemed about two days old.

When the female is incubating, the male supplies her with food. He does not go to the nest, however, but calls

from a nearby tree, and the female goes to him, wings fluttering like a young bird, to receive the food. During this act both birds indulge in a number of sweet and plaintive notes. The male's gathering of food, except for himself, seems to stop completely with the hatching of the eggs. During several hours of watching we have never seen the male carry food to the nest. He would often go there to look things over but always without food. At this time, with a large family on her hands and apparently no assistance from her mate, the female, who cleverly covers her family with feathers between feedings, always seems hurried and haggard. The male retains his calm composure and Beau Brummel appearance. This seems to be the case even after the young leave the nest. But this attitude on the part of the male is really not caused by indifference. A close approach to the nest by an intruder quickly dispels this idea. The male is then as excited and concerned over his family as the mother bird, flying anxiously and excitedly about and scolding incessantly.

The song of the Golden-crowned Kinglet is rather disappointing, probably because we expect too much after hearing the ruby's artistic effort. Though far from being as beautiful as that delightful accomplishment, it is still somewhat reminiscent of it, the first notes having the rising inflection which in the ruby's reaches perfection. Besides the song and the notes indulged in while the male feeds his mate the kinglet has quite a repertoire of calls. The one most often heard is the same we hear so often during migration. Another series of notes is used by the male as the female is nearing the nest with food for the young. These notes seem to have a questioning quality and usually end with a more assuring note when the male is satisfied that everything is all right.

Having had these opportunities to observe this diminutive bird "at home" always makes him seem like an old friend when passing through southern Minnesota each spring and fall.

(In light of the fact that these four nests of the Golden-crowned Kinglet are the only occupied nests that have ever been found in Minnesota, we believe that other factors than "luck" were instrumental in their discovery.-Editor)

THE STARLINGS ARRIVE

By Marius Merse

During the past year I have had occasion to observe the Starling at three different localities within the state. One thing above all others I have noticed -- that the bird is unusually wary and timid. Not once was I able to secure a really satisfactory view of the bird, such that I might recognize the irridescence of the feathers.

A year ago this spring, in the latter part of March, I had the opportunity to accompany several members of the M.B.C. on a bird trip to the southern section of the state. Our erst-while editor, of whom I shall recount an amusing incident later, entertained high hopes of seeing a certain flock of Starlings that had been previously reported by a farmer near Spring Grove. I was not quite so optimistic and preferred to let the matter develop.

On the second day of the trip, as I recall, we were driving over a very narrow, bumpy country road when suddenly a dark-colored bird flew swiftly across the road directly in front of the car and headed towards a nearby woodlot. "Starling", shouted Alden Risser, with a tone of certainty in his voice that left no doubt in the minds of the rest of us that this bird was surely one of the Starlings we were after.

The car was quickly brought to a standstill. Alden bounced out, gun in hand. Here was a chance to collect a new species of bird for the University of Minnesota Museum. My enthusiasm, by that time, was very much aroused, so with Alden leading the way and myself following closely behind we set out across a wide expanse of meadow that separated us from the small oak knoll where the Starling had alighted in a small tree. In a short two or three minutes were there -- cautiously now, we crept through a dense growth of underbrush at the foot of the hill. Sure enough--a single Starling could be seen sitting sedately in the topmost branches of a gnarled oak.

Wasting no time, Alden raised his trusty fire-piece to his shoulder, took careful aim, and pulled the trigger--But not even the semblance of a report issued forth from the barrel of the gun. And just then, the Starling, believing that it had undoubtedly accommodated us sufficiently by that time, left its perch and disappeared over the hill-top. And that, friends, is one for the books. I do not doubt that Alden will be sure to load his gun in future collecting days. Suffice it to say that we were unable to catch a second glimpse of the Starling, though we spent the next hour or more tramping the surrounding countryside.

My second meeting with these curious, wary birds, occurred in September, 1932, near Sturgeon Lake in the northern part of the state, while birding with two M.B.C. enthusiasts. We were making observations on fall feathered migrants in a rolling pasture, when my eyes caught sight of three black birds alighting in the naked branches of a small tree about 400 feet distant. As we started to approach the birds, they flushed, affording us a good view of their stubby tails and characteristic flight. Yes, they were Starlings, without doubt, but try as hard and patiently as we would, we failed to get a closer glimpse.

But I was yet to make another observation of the Starlings. While hiking with two friends in the vicinity of Nine-mile Creek just south of Minneapolis on January 3, 1933, we came upon a flock of 22 Starlings. The chance of collecting a single specimen looked mighty good; but we had failed to reckon with the extreme wariness of the birds. For fully two hours, we chased the flock back and forth across the creek, without once being able to approach the birds within 175 feet.

I did, however, have the opportunity to make a few interesting observations on the habits of the Starlings. Their flight resembles the half-gliding, half-flying flight of the meadowlark. The individuals of the flock seemed to remain close together, both in flight and when perched. The birds preferred to perch in the top-most branches of tall trees, from which they depart simultaneously with the first movement of the leader of the flock. Their notes take the form of a curious jumble of cackling sounds somewhat remindful of the tinkling of sleighbells in the distance. The very short, stubby tails are exceptionally characteristic. The long, slender bill is equally diagnostic in summer, when it is nearly white in color.

It appears that the Starlings will be well established within the state of Minnesota in a few years' time. Only about two years ago this species was first reported from southern Minnesota. Starlings were seen by other members of the Minnesota Bird Club during 1932 at Cambridge, Hastings, Miesville (which is about midway between Hastings and Red Wing), and at Frontenac. Bird students will undoubtedly welcome the arrival of a new species of bird life to the state, and everyone will be hoping that the Starling may prove itself to be of more value than the outlawed English Sparrow.

### OUR FAVORITE BIRDS

By Alden Risser

Recently we asked the Minnesota members of the club to name their favorite birds, birds which they consider most beautiful, and those whose songs they most enjoy. We are grateful to the twenty who cooperated.

If most of you who did this derived as much pleasure in it as I did, the project was well worth while in itself; but the results are interesting and so are compiled here. The thoughts and recollections of our experiences with these, the birds which are most interesting to us, was the source of considerable conversation and pleasure among many of us at the University.

Mrs. Davidson vividly expresses her reaction to choosing favorite birds, which probably all of us who did so can well appreciate: "I never have been able to choose favorites among the birds. As soon as I do, all the others rise up and brand me a traitor, and even as I have now chosen a family and a few songsters I feel that it isn't true. The call of the first Killdeer in the spring is heavenly music to me; the cries of the marsh birds and the hawks and the hoots of the owls are sweet to my ears, and the beauty of all bird songs is so enhanced by the setting surrounding them that I am lost in a maze of happy memories when I try to select any particular ones."

The first question was, "What group of birds (family or order) is your favorite? The answers are as follows:

Warblers -----	6
Shore birds --	5
Sparrows -----	3
Ducks -----	2
Hawks -----	2
Owls -----	1
Flycatchers --	1
Thrushes -----	1

The second: "What are your five favorite birds (that is, those which you enjoy observing the most)?" The most striking thing about the answers to this question is the very wide variety of choice, much wider than in the case of the most beautiful and most pleasing singers. From the 100 answers of the 20 persons, there are 71 different birds. No one bird received more than 4 votes. The Duck Hawk's 4 votes are specifically significant considering its rareness in Minnesota. Below are all those which received three or more votes: (next page)

Duck Hawk -----	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird --	4
Marsh Hawk -----	3
Ruffed Grouse -----	3
Woodcock -----	3
Sanderling -----	3
Goldfinch -----	3

The following received two votes apiece: Loon, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Burrowing Owl, Purple Martin, Chickadee, Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruy-crowned Kinglet, Cape May Warbler, and Myrtle Warbler. 53 birds had one vote each.

The third question was, "What five birds do you consider most beautiful (making your own interpretation of beauty, except that voice should not be considered)? The results are not as diversified as in the former case:

Blackburnian Warbler -----	11
Bohemian Waxwing -----	7
Scarlet Tanager -----	7
Wood Duck -----	6
Baltimore Oriole -----	6
Wilson's Phalarope -----	5
Cardinal -----	4
Evening Grosbeak -----	4

The following received three votes: Whistling Swan, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Barn Swallow, Bluebird, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Two votes went to the Great Blue Heron, Ruddy Duck, Cedar Waxwing, Indigo Bunting, and Towhee.

There were 25 species which had one vote.

The last was, "Name the five birds whose songs or calls you enjoy hearing most." Of special interest are the Wood Thrush's 11 votes to the Hermit's 3 despite the much greater fame attached to the Hermit's song. (I know that at least 5 of those who chose the Wood Thrush but not the Hermit have heard both.) The Upland Plover ranks especially high when its relative scarcity in most of the state is considered.

Wood Thrush -----	11
Upland Plover -----	9
Loon -----	8
Veery -----	6
Bobolink -----	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet -----	5
Western Meadowlark -----	4
Rose-breasted Kingbird -----	4

These birds had three votes: Robin, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, and White-throated Sparrow.

Two votes apiece went to the Horned Lark, Winter Wren, Bluebird, Eastern Meadowlark, Cardinal, and Vesper Sparrow.

There were 23 birds which had one vote.

HERE AND THERE

THE LONGSPUR'S BLUEBIRD SONG -- It was the middle of February -- a warm day in a mild winter--and I was walking the prairie roads, enjoying the clear, fresh air and watching for any member of the bird family which might be about.

There were Pheasants and Crows, longspurs and Horned Larks in the fields. All were voicing their joy in life in their well-known ways. Then, out of the air somewhere, came a faint, sweet note. It had the quality of the Bluebird's note, and having read John Burrough's story about it I accepted the voice as that of the Bluebird. Then it occurred to me that in mid-February a Bluebird would be a record for this part of the state, and I determined to find it.

I followed the sound here and there, but always the bird was just out of sight. At last I heard the note just behind me and turning, saw on the fence only a few feet away, a Lapland Longspur, singing Bluebird music.

Many times since then I have heard these sweet notes and always with much pleasure.

-- Nellie O. Wilson

A FLIGHT OF LONGSPURS. - On March 4, 1933, I noticed six scattered flocks passing overhead within an hour, toward the west. The flocks numbered up to 30 - 35 individuals. When I had to leave Como Park (St. Paul), flocks were still passing.

SNOW BUNTINGS. -- On January 22, of this year I was tramping through the fields just east of Shakopee in search of the feeding places of Pheasants. I occasionally jumped Horned Larks but never in considerable numbers. After a time though, I got the surprise of my life. I jumped a large flock of Snow Buntings. When I say large, I mean large. The air was literally filled with them. I tried to estimate the number but quit because the number became so stupendous that I doubted if there were that many Snow Buntings in North America. Later I tried to attract them with grain but didn't have any luck. The birds stayed in the vicinity for about four days.

-- Stanley Stein

A BIRD APARTMENT HOUSE. -- On May 21, 1932, I saw a Wren house on a side of a garage, and a Robin had built a nest on top of the Wren house. A pair of English Sparrows had filled the Robin's nest with feathers. When I found this "bird apartment house", there were young Wrens in the Wren house and young sparrows in the Robin's nest.

I also found a Baltimore Oriole's nest which an English Sparrow remodeled, leaving a hole in the top through which to enter.

--- William Cummings

BLUE JAY NOTES -- A cold, northeast wind and a late snowfall made the 18th of March a discouraging day for birding, but in accord with previous plans Alden Risser and I left school as soon as classes were over and by one o' clock were making our way through the woods of Fort Snelling along the Minnesota River.

A cold, unfriendly stillness broken only by an occasionally Downy and once by a few excited killdeers hung over the woods. Not even the Robins with their loud alarms were on hand. We had gone about two miles when the cheery call of a Goldfinch - "cheer" - came to us from a clump of saplings ahead. Our pleasure at this welcome sound was changed to amazed mystification when there followed a series of soft whistled notes different from anything we had ever heard before. I thought it must be a Redpoll singing a song I had missed before, but knew I was wrong when these notes were followed by some low, guttural sounds, like some I have heard from a Brown Thrasher. Alden suggested it might be the famous song of the Northern Shrike; I wondered if it might be a Mockingbird. While we stood in baffled wonderment, the song stopped, and a Blue Jay flew silently out across the opening to another clump of trees. Could this be the singer? Impossible! Yet as these thoughts raced through our minds, the song came to us again: soft, sweet, and exquisitely beautiful. Just a few minutes of this and he flew again up over the tree tops and out of sight, calling back a raucous jay, jay and laughing as he went.

On asking Mr. Kilgore about this the next day, I found that this is a rather uncommon but well known performance. He had heard it once some years ago and remembered clearly the beauty of this song.

-- Charles Evans

BLUE JAY NOTES -- On January 29th I thought for a few moments that I could report a Bluebird, but upon closer investigation I found that it was only a Blue Jay calling like a Bluebird. This was the first time I had ever heard a Blue Jay mimic a Bluebird.

-- Stanley Stein

A STRANGE BIRD -- While looking for birds at the edge of a small woods near Sturgeon Lake on September 14, 1932, I came across a bird that was totally unfamiliar to me. It bore no resemblance to any species I had ever observed before. Perhaps someone could offer a suggestion as to its identity. The bird was a nearly uniform yellow color over its entire body and was about the size of a bluebird. Absolutely no conspicuous marking was evident.

-- Marius Morse

(We suggest as a possibility a rather unusual xanthochroistic plumage of the female Scarlet Tanager. Ed.) See plate in Dr. Roberts' Birds of Minnesota.

WHISTLING SWANS — Sunday, April 9th, became one of the most important days in the present migration season, when a flock of 29 Whistling Swans was seen three miles north of Minneapolis. The birds were flying in an irregular V formation when seen, and were not flying high. Fortunately they passed almost directly overhead, and so were observed to great advantage. On April 12th, the University bird class had the good fortune to see six of these beautiful birds resting in the lake below the Long Meadow Gun Club on the Minnesota River. Mr. Breckenridge saw 13 swans there the following day. It is certainly to be hoped that the swans are actually becoming more abundant with protection, as recent records of their occurrence would indicate.

— Gustav Swanson.

GOLDFINCHES — On January 3, 1933, while making observations on bird life just south of Minneapolis, a couple of fellow birders and I were more than surprised to encounter a flock of Goldfinches containing about 70 individuals. In my experience, the flock is by far the largest I have ever seen in mid-winter. The birds were easily identified, as they remained in a large weed patch bordering a field for as many moments as we cared to watch them. On that day we also saw a Black Duck, a White-winged Crossbill, and a couple of Red-tailed Hawks.

— Marius Morse.

SOME INTERESTING MIGRATION DATES — These notes were gleaned from reports by members of the club at the March and April meetings. It was not intended to take down only migration dates, but owing to the season, there were no other reports of special interest except Mr. Kilgore's account of the Woodcocks' return to Fort Snelling, which is mentioned on the first page, and Stein and Woolsey's fruitful work with owls, which we hope to present in a future number. These dates are from the Twin Cities region unless otherwise stated:

- Feb. 18 - About 30 Red-winged Blackbirds (Upson, Dutoit, and Risser). Seen at Bloomington, where no blackbirds have been reported during the winter. About 200 were seen on the 22nd (Evans).
- Feb. 21 - Robin (Dobie)
- Mar. 2 - Bluebird (S. Stein)
- Mar. 4 - Two Marsh Hawks (Husoby)
- Mar. 26 - Eight Broad-winged Hawks (Rosenwinkel - by correspondence)
- Mar. 30 - Purple Martin (Morse)
- Mar. 31 - Winter Wren (Karlander)
- Mar. 31 - Pied-billed Grebe and Cowbird at Frontenac (Jaek & Risser)
- Apr. 1 - An exceptionally early House Wren in Michigan about 300 miles south of Minneapolis (Swanson)
- Apr. 5 - Myrtle Warbler (Rosenwinkel)
- Apr. 12 - Ruddy Ducks (Montgomery)
- Apr. 13 - 25 Snow Geese and a Barn Swallow (Zoubek)

A NOTE ON COOT BEHAVIOR -- On Saturday and Sunday, April 22nd and 23rd, 1933, at Spring Lake near Hastings, Minnesota was observed a flock of Coots which were behaving in a strange manner, but they persisted in these actions for such a long time that we were forced to the conclusion that they were acting perfectly normally, and that what we observed may be a result of the excitement incident to the courting performance.

The flock was first observed Saturday afternoon, and there were possibly 150 birds in it. They were massed into a very compact formation, much more closely than usual in a normal flock, and occasionally the entire flock would suddenly begin to paddle along the surface of the water, at the same time flapping their wings very vigorously. The effect of this great splashing in the water was to create a roar which sounded, at the distance of about 200 yards, very much like distant thunder. This resemblance was so great that once or twice we were almost convinced that we were hearing thunder.

For several hours on Saturday, and all day Sunday, this flock of Coots was seen in the same place, never moving more than 200 yards from the place where we first saw them, and they began to create their synthetic thunder as soon as the sun rose. Every hour or so when we were within 1/4th mile of the place, we heard it.

Although A. C. Bent, in his Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds, mentions the Coots' habit of spluttering about a great deal, he does not say anything about any such organized performance as this seemed to be. The remarkable part of the whole observation was the fact that the whole company of Coots took part, without exception, and that it occurred not once, but over a dozen times in two days we were near the flock.

-- Gustav Swanson

THE IMITATIVE SONGS OF THE CATBIRD -- On two occasions I have had the interesting experience of hearing Catbirds' imitations. Both occurred in the month of May. The first was an imitation of the cry of a Black Tern. The Catbird was on an electric light wire, and the Tern was circling overhead uttering his cry at intervals. After each cry by the Tern, the Catbird would try to produce the same sound and did finally do a fair representation. The performance lasted several minutes.

The second incident was a far more thrilling performance. As I was listening to numerous bird songs, I suddenly realized that I could hear a Whippoorwill singing. The song was faint and far away, but clear and quite unmistakable. When I tried to locate the direction from which the song came, it baffled me. After several repetitions of the song I discovered that it was being done by a Catbird in a little bush not six feet from where I was sitting.

-- Nellie O. Wilson

BOOK NOTES

BIRDS OF LOUISIANA -- 1931. Bulletin No. 20 Louisiana State Department of Conservation, New Orleans, La. 598 pages. profusely illustrated. Paper covers.

This book, said to be the first state bird book for Louisiana, is well worth obtaining, even for Minnesota bird lovers, who will doubtless be interested in comparing the bird life of Louisiana with our own. The book is distributed free of charge on remittance of 25 cents to cover the cost of mailing and packing.

Various members of the state department of conservation have contributed to the work although some statements indicate that Stanley C. Arthur is largely responsible. The seven full page colored plates are from the series issued by the National Association of Audubon Societies, and the hundreds of pen drawings are largely from publications of the Bureau of Biological Survey.

Over 325 species and subspecies of birds are treated, and quite naturally there are among these a large number which we find in Minnesota only rarely.

It is of interest to note how the habits of the same species of birds may differ in different parts of their range. The Barred Owl, for example, and several other species of owls, are reported as sometimes nesting before Christmas, and are quite generally nesting by the first of January.

The Wild Turkey is perhaps Louisiana's finest game bird, and as such is treated at length. Audubon's justly famous painting of the cock bird is reproduced in black and white. We are saddened to hear that there is an open season of one month, March 5th to April 5th, just at the "gobbling season", when the cocks are most easily decoyed. The open season is certainly to be decried when the birds are decreasing so in numbers, and no successful method of artificial propagation has been devised.

An interesting feature of the book is the fact that in the case of a large number of the birds the meanings of the scientific names are given. To those of us who are curious about these names, and to whom Dr. Coues' "Key" is not available this should prove a valuable book, for it is seldom that these scientific names are defined in ordinary dictionaries or even in bird books.

-- Gustav Swanson

METHODS OF COLLECTING AND PRESERVING VERTEBRATE ANIMALS. By R. M. Anderson. 1932. Canada Dept. of Mines, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa. Paper covers; pp.140 Price 25 cents.

There is perhaps not one of us who has not been confronted at some time with the problem of saving some bird or other animal in such condition that it may be identified

or perhaps retained in a museum collection, and for this reason the present publication is one which I highly recommend to anyone interested in natural history. Even those who have had some experience in preparing bird or mammal skins will doubtless profit by having this book available, for its descriptions of the process of preparing museum skins are more complete than most, and in addition the animals requiring special attention are taken up. In many cases the special methods employed by experienced collectors are passed on. Allan Brooks' method of preparing ducks and geese, and H. M. Laing's special treatment for owl skins are examples.

Large birds, birds with large heads, very fat birds, downy young birds, hooped and horned mammals, flying squirrels, bats, porcupines, and muskrats are all animals requiring special treatment for their preservation as good museum specimens, and all of these and many more exceptions to the general rules are covered.

The preservation of fishes, reptiles, and amphibians is also considered briefly, and a bibliography of important references on the subject is appended. Anyone who is interested in making a collection of animals for himself, or merely interested in preserving any rare or unusual specimens which he may chance to find is urged to obtain this publication.

- G.S.

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THE FLICKER

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by the

MINNESOTA BIRD CLUB

President, Gustav Swanson, 3305 - 47th Avenue South, Minnea-  
Vice-President, Stanley Stein, Shakopee polis  
Secy-Treas., Marius Morse, 4031 - 40th Ave. N., Robbinsdale  
Editor, Alden Risser, 1012 Laurel Avenue., St. Paul  
Dues, active members, \$1 per annum; associate members, 50¢

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Our regular June meeting was held on the 3rd of that month in the form of a picnic in an attractive oak grove near Mendota. We spent the afternoon rambling through the woods in small groups, then gathered together for supper and listened with a great deal of interest to Mr. W. J. Breckenridge, who told of many of his discoveries and adventures with Marsh Hawks.

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Ralph Woolscy has very kindly assumed the duties concerned in the publication of this number, all in addition to the tedious task of writing and editing the compilation of nesting records which comprises nearly the whole of this issue. Although at the time of this writing we have not seen the fruits of his work, we are fully confident that it is as cleverly written as it is rich in nidological news.

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Material intended for publication in the December number must be in our hands by November 5th.

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(This page and the following page were not numbered in the original copies of THE FLICKER.)

### IN MEMORIAM

We prepare this issue for publication with heavy hearts, saddened by the loss of our friend and past president: DONALD FISCHER, who recently met an accidental and untimely end. A shotgun which he was carrying discharged while he was passing through a fence, shattering his thigh, and the subsequent loss of blood resulted in his death.

It is impossible in words to do justice to anyone. Surely, any feeble attempt of ours to express the great regard in which we held Don or any efforts to realize the loss occasioned by his passing seems hopelessly futile and inadequate -- eulogy is rendered doubly difficult.

Don was a keen observer. His accurate and delightful descriptions of incidents he had witnessed or had participated in, both in the ornithological field and elsewhere, revealed his ability as such. The sly, refreshing humor interspersing his narratives reflected his own buoyant and happy spirits. His energetic enthusiasm was characteristic; his diligence and ambition commanded our respect.

No one who knew him could fail to be impressed by his personality. No one could have a better friend. The various attributes of his character were so compelling that they could not fail to win the admiration and affection of those with whom he came in contact.

Donald Fischer was in every respect a gentleman. His ideals were high, and he adhered to them nobly. He has left with us an example of warm, unswerving friendship and a deep love of the ways of Nature that will ever remain a cherished memory.

THE 1933 NESTING SEASON

Compiled by Ralph Woolsey

Following a precedent established by S. A. Grimes in 1929 of systematically arranging and publishing the nest-finding reports of members of the Minnesota Bird Club, the writer hereby presents the fifth annual compilation, for 1933.

Although the number of cooperators is somewhat smaller this year, the following nest list is highly satisfactory from the number of species reported, many of which are of especial interest, and several of which have not been recorded in our previous summaries. The various observers, therefore, are to be commended for their diligence and their cooperation in making this report possible. Their names will be given with their respective records, written in full the first time they appear in the list.

This year's compilation is epitomized from the reports of seventeen contributors, and comprises data on 133 species of birds, all of which were observed in Minnesota. Of the above number, actual nests of 120 species were seen. (This figure represents the largest specific number of nests yet compiled by us.) The other 13 are records of unfinished or uninvestigated nests, adults carrying either nesting material or food, and young birds out of the nest. These last are not resorted to except in cases where one or no other record was reported for the particular species. Localities are indicated.

It would palpably be inane and impossible to list all the records reported, as the number is in excess of eleven hundred (colonies considered one nest); consequently, only the first and last of well-represented species are given, plus such nests at which observations of special interest were made. The writer has taken the liberty of including excerpts from several observers' reports in order to better elucidate certain cases.

Outstanding among the records submitted were those of the Loon; Yellow-billed Cuckoo at St. Cloud; Barred Owl; Olive-sided Thrush; Sprague's Pipit; Starling and Orchard Oriole at St. Cloud; Dickcissel at Sturgeon Lake; Henslow's Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

The writer has endeavored to record the following in a dignified and serious vein, and meekly appeals to those who peruse it to tolerate any occasional remarks of a contrary nature, on the ground that they were beyond his ability to suppress.

#### COMMON LOON

A nest of the Great Northern Diver, found by Nester Hiemenz near St. Cloud on May 4th, contained the customary two eggs. "On June 3th the owners of this nest were being followed by two young a week or so old." Two young about one week old were observed by Gustav Swanson, Leander Fischer, Stanley Stein and the writer at Lake Itasca, on June 20th. Alden Risser reports young about half grown at Sturgeon Lake on June 25th. On the same date John Huseby observed a young Loon on Lake Minnetonka.

#### PIED-BILLED GREBE

Three nests of this species were reported. The first, containing 4 eggs, was found near St. Paul by Risser on May 13th. On May 21st Marius Morse and Sterling Brackett located a nest near Robbinsdale which held 6 eggs. The last nest was found by Hiemenz near Bakus, Cass County, on June 15th, on which date its contents consisted of 4 eggs.

#### DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

The nesting colony on Gull Rock, Lake of the Woods, was visited by P. O. Fryklund on May 20th. He found, "43 nests, with 1 to 6 eggs, the average number 3 to 4 eggs per nest", and adds, "from a few of the larger sets collected I found a number of eggs with incubation commenced."

#### GREAT BLUE HERON

A colony of about 55 pairs of this bird was visited by Hiemenz on May 4th. He found them "nesting in tall Basswood and Tamarack trees along the Sauk River about 2 miles west of Rockville, Stearns County. I climbed one tree which gave me the view of 10 nests. Five nests held 5 eggs each and 5 nests held 4 eggs each. The birds were incubating on most of the nests. The eggs seemed fresh. Several nests were just being built. One tree held 10 nests and 2 held 7 nests.

#### GREEN HERON

Five nests reported. The first, containing one egg, was located by Stein and the writer on May 10th, which would seem to be a rather early date. The last nest, found by Hiemenz near St. Cloud on June 7th, contained 3 eggs.

#### BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

Several records were obtained on the colony north of St. Paul. The site was visited by Swanson, Risser and the writer on April 30th, and the above mentioned persons were greatly surprised to find a number of nests with 2 to 4 eggs. William Cummins found that on May 17th the nests still contained varrying number of eggs, up to 4, and counted about 70 nests. Swanson found many nests with young on May 24th.

AMERICAN BITTERN

Two nests were reported, both by Sam Grimes. The first, found on June 18th at Thief Lake, Marshall County, contained one egg. The second was found on June 21st in Pennington County, and contained 4 eggs. It was located in an alfalfa field "100 feet from the nearest water."

EASTERN LEAST BITTERN

The only nest of this nimble little acrobat of the reeds was found by Hiemenz, near St. Cloud. It held 4 fresh eggs on June 5.

COMMON MALLARD

A nest containing 9 eggs was found on June 18th by Fischer at Thief Lake. Risser reports two broods of downy young about one-fourth grown, one on June 29th and the other on July 1st, at Sturgeon Lake. He pens the following about the latter: "The female was swimming along peacefully, followed by a string of 8 half-grown young. I threw a stick toward her, hoping she would fly so that I could identify her. She immediately began splashing around frantically and the young scrambled into the weeds. Then she flew back a few rods into some reeds which I was approaching and came out with 2 more young, which she proceeded to chase across the pond into the reeds where the other young were. One of them was slow, and she frequently darted at him impatiently to chase him on."

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

The writer found a nest of this little duck on May 28th. It was seen at Shakopee, and the contents were 12 eggs. The nest was located beneath a clump of weeds in a small pasture, and although the bovines must have passed dangerously close to her many times in their restricted range, the Teal's home was unscathed. It remained for another more deadly force to destroy. After having nobly withstood the terrors of cows and cameras, the unfortunate bird and her mate fell victims to a couple of sniping young scoundrels who had a rifle and the insatiable desire to kill, a combination that seems destined to spell wanton destruction. Ralph Eisale saw a brood of 12 young of this species a few days old on June 14th near Minneapolis.

RUDDY DUCK

Grimes reports the only Ruddy Duck's nest. It was found at Thief Lake and contained 2 eggs on June 18th.

AMERICAN MERGANSER

On June 22nd, Mr. Swedenborg observed a family of the Big Saw-bill, consisting of the female and 10 small young, at Northern Lights Lake, Cook County.

TURKEY VULTURE

William Cummins reports two-thirds-grown young of this species near Red Wing on July 9th.

COOPER'S HAWK

Five nests of this accipiter were reported from quite widely scattered localities in the state. The earliest is from the vicinity of St. Cloud, found by Hiemenz on May 2nd. It contained one egg. Stein found a nest near Shakopee on May 9th which contained 4 eggs. A nest with 4 eggs was found on May 14th near Redwood Falls by Curmins, and Grimes reports a nest with 4 heavily-incubated eggs for Pennington County, found on June 7th. At Sturgeon Lake, on July 13th, our good friend Risser observed young about ready to leave the nest, and we are indebted to him for the following interesting note: "I revisited the nest on the 16th, hoping to take back one or two of the young for pets. The adult was not around this time. When I started to climb the tree, five young hawks flew out rather feebly in different directions. I could follow only one. I tried to force him down by hitting the branch he was on with sticks. It was impossible to hit him because he was protected by some of the outer branches, but I threw at least 60 sticks, and hit the branch he was on a dozen times or more, usually with such force that he flapped his wings and nearly lost his balance. He often turned his head to watch the missiles, and when they came close he looked dumb and uttered a series of complaining notes, not unlike those of an adult, but he never moved 6 inches from his perch."

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK

Ten nests find their way into the ranks of the Red-tail this year. On March 25th Hiemenz found a nest containing one fresh egg, near St. Cloud. A nest with 3 eggs in which incubation was advanced was found in Roseau County on May 18th by Fryklund, and on the following day the latest nest reported was found near Hamel by Morse and Brackett. It held 2 eggs. A nest of this species which was found by Stein and the writer was also found by a Certain Cooper's Hawk who seemed to have taken umbrage at his larger relative's manner of above to the extent that he could not countenance Buteo's remaining in the vicinity. In short, when the nest was visited on April 30th a neatly-punctured egg was found on the ground beneath, bearing dramatic evidence of the aggressor's prowess as an ecologist. As a result of this internecine animosity the Red-tails moved to another locality. The egg, which was intact (save for the hole made by the Cooper's Hawk) despite its fall of about 50 feet, was left where it lay, but it occurs to the writer that a great mistake was made in not having investigated its gastronomic possibilities.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Seven nests of this beneficial species were reported. On April 30th a nest containing one egg was found by Eisele and Walter Downey near Minneapolis. The latest nest reported was found on May 21st in Roseau County by Fryklund. The contents were 2 eggs incubation commenced. Swanson reports an uninvestigated nest which he found on May 22nd at Coon Creek. An incubating bird was seen on the nest, but the contents were not determined.

SOUTHERN BALD EAGLE

Two eyries of this unduly glorified yet picturesque bird were seen. The nest at Lake Itasca was observed by Stein, Swanson, Fischer and the writer on June 20th, when it no doubt harbored fairly large young, although they could not be seen from the lake. A nest examined near Ely by Jack Hanson was found to contain 2 young ready to fly on July 20th.

MARSH HAWK

This Harrier is well-represented, thirteen nests having been reported. The earliest date is for a nest found in Anoka County by W. J. Breckenridge on April 29th. The nest held 4 eggs. The latest nest was located by Stein and the writer in Norman County on June 17th, and contained 4 eggs. The writer witnessed a most interesting incident while observing a nest of this species from a blind in Norman County. The nest harbored several young who were affected considerably by the terrific heat which blazed down relentlessly on the prairie, and during a short interval when the old bird was off the nest one of the little fellows died from lack of shelter. A few moments later the male bird dropped like a plummet, seized the deceased in his talons without alighting, and made off. From the narrow confines of the blind it was impossible to see what disposition was made of his cargo, but he no doubt dropped it not far distant, for he was back at the nest in a trice. I do not believe the young bird was devoured.

OSPREY

But one nest of the Fish Hawk was observed this year, and that by Risser at Sturgeon Lake. That worthy gentleman sallied forth, as was his wont, on June 30th and hid himself to the nest, wondering how it had fared a storm of the previous night. We can visualize the look of chagrin that crept over his countenance when arriving at the spot, he found two broken eggs on the ground. While it would probably not prove especially beneficial to the owners, the ability of conjuring up a storm of sufficient intensity would seem to be a very convenient means of ascertaining the contents of ordinarily inaccessible eyries.

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK

Two nests of this graceful little Falcon was reported, both for June 10th, and both containing 2 eggs. Risser found one near St. Paul and the other was found by Breckenridge in Anoka County.

CANADA SPRUCE GROUSE

Hanson found a brood of young just hatched near Ely on July 12th, and thus furnishes us the only record of this disappearing bird.

RUFFED GROUSE

Three nests and many broods of young reported. The first was reported by Hiemenz, the nest being found near St. Cloud on April 29th, when it held 5 eggs of the owner and 3 Pheasant eggs. On May 1st the nest contained 6 grouse eggs and 4 Pheasant eggs. A nest with 6 eggs was found near Ely on June 11th by Hanson, who also found another on the 12th which contained 9 eggs.

#### GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN

Two nests reported. Breckenridge reports the first, from Anoka County, where it held 9 eggs on May 7th. Grimes lists the other, which was found in Pennington County on June 4th and contained 15 eggs.

#### PRAIRIE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

On June 22nd Grimes located a nest of this species in Pennington County. 13 eggs comprised its contents. On the previous day the same observer had seen a brood of 12 or 15 chicks barely able to fly.

#### CALIFORNIA QUAIL

That some of these handsome birds, planted at Fort Snelling recently, have succeeded in rearing young is evinced by Cummins' report of adults feeding young at the Fort on June 20th. (Please refer to the article in this issue by Gustav Swanson for an account of the propagation of this and other exotic species by the Fort Snelling officials.)

#### EASTERN BOB-WHITE

Two nests reported. Breckenridge and Swanson found the first in Anoka County on May 27th, the contents being 9 eggs. A nest with 8 eggs was found at Lake Minnetonka on June 29th by John Huseby. Young quail awing were seen by Morse on the same date.

#### RING-NECKED PHEASANT

Twelve nests of this introduced polygamist were reported. The earliest was found by Stein and the writer at Shakopee on April 25th, at which time it held 9 eggs. The latest was found by Hiemenz, near Piers, Morrison County, on June 10th. It contained 10 eggs. A nest found by Mrs. Peterson at Madison on May 17th held 20 eggs, and it is not improbable that more than one hen contributed to its contents. (Please refer to the report on RUFFED GROUSE for a record of pheasant eggs found in a nest of that species.)

#### VIRGINIA RAIL

We have reports of three nests of this bird. Mr. Swedenborg flushed a female from a finished but empty nest near Minneapolis on May 22nd. On May 29th a nest containing 4 eggs was found by Eisele & Downey near Minneapolis, while the last, containing 6 eggs, was located on June 3rd near Long Meadow by Upson, Garlander, Evans and DuToit.

#### SORA

Five nests reported. Eisele discovered the first on May 24th, near Minneapolis. It held 9 eggs, and was subsequently destroyed by rising water. Three nests were found near Bakus by Hiemenz on June 5th (7 eggs), June 8th (10 eggs) and on June 15th (12 eggs). Morse reports the last nest, found on June 20th near Robbinsdale and containing 8 eggs.

FLORIDA GALLINULE

Two nests reported. The first was found at Fort Snelling on May 20th by Upson, when it held 6 eggs. The other was discovered at the same place on May 24th by Cummings, and contained 9 eggs.

AMERICAN COOT

Seven nests reported. The first, found near Shakopee on May 16th by the writer, contained 8 eggs. Eisele found the last near Minneapolis on June 20th, when it held 13 eggs.

KILLDEER

Eleven nests of this noisy knave were reported. Swanson discovered the first at Long Meadow on April 26th. Its interior was graced with 4 eggs. The last nest, found a few feet from the source of the Mississippi River in Itasca Park on June 21st by Swanson, Fischer, Stein and the writer, held 4 eggs.

UPLAND PLOVER

Bartram's Sandpiper is represented by a nest found by Robert Montgomery in Anoka County on June 5th. The contents were 3 eggs. It is to be hoped that this once-disappearing prairie bird's name will appear oftener in these records in the future.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER

Six nests were recorded. Three were found on June 12th by the writer near Shakopee. One of the nests was seen just as the 2 young were leaving it. The other held 4 eggs each. A nest found by Risser at Sturgeon Lake on July 7th contained 4 eggs which hatched on the following day.

MARbled GODWIT

Two long-legged little Godwits about 4 days old led Stein and the writer a merry chase over the sizzling prairie of Norman County on June 18th. When they were at last caught they refused to sit for a photograph, and further complicated matters by calling nearly every Godwit in Minnesota to protest the outrage. These arrivals created a bedlam that thoroughly distressed the captors, but greatly increased the vitality of the captured, making them so entirely unmanageable that they were willingly liberated.

HERRING GULL

Fryklund visited the colony on Gull Rock, Lake of the Woods, on May 20th, when there were "31 nests, with 1 to 3 eggs, with exception of one set with 4 eggs", and adds that from a few of the larger sets collected he found all the eggs fresh. Swedenborg investigated a colony northeast of Two Harbors on June 17th. He found nests with 3 eggs, 2 eggs, 1 egg and young, and young in various stages of development. "One nest in this colony still held three eggs on June 25th."

COMMON TERN

We quote Morse regarding two colonies seen by him: "Observed colony of this tern at both Hennepin and Spirit Islands on Mille Lacs Lake. There were probably at least 100 nests on the former island on August 10th. These nests contained eggs (1 to 3) and newly-hatched young. Fledgling Common Terns in various stages of development were to be seen running about the island, swimming in the water near the island, or attempting to hide in the rock crevices. At Spirit Island, visited on August 11th, only about a dozen nests with eggs and young were found."

BLACK TERN

Of the many nests and colonies observed, Cummins reports the earliest for this species. He located 3 nests at Fort Snelling on May 24th, when they contained 1 egg each. The last nest with eggs was observed by Stein and the writer near Detroit Lakes on June 19th. Risser reports young "still mostly in the down" at Sturgeon Lake on July 28th.

WESTERN MOURNING DOVE

Of the obviously large number seen, 39 investigated nests were reported. The first, which held 2 eggs, was found near St. Cloud on April 28th by Hiemenz, who also reports the last from the same locality. It also contained 2 eggs and was found on August 4th. Two nests reported were on the ground.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

A nest of this rather uncommon bird was found by Hiemenz at St. Cloud on June 7th. It held 2 fresh eggs. The finder states that this and two previous nests, found in 1931 and 1932, were located near the same farmhouse and were the only ones found in the vicinity to his knowledge.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

Nine nests of the Rain Crow were discovered. The first is reported by Hiemenz, who located it at St. Cloud on June 7th. The contents were 4 eggs. The same observer lists the last nest, which contained a young bird several days old and one egg on July 11th.

EASTERN SCREECH OWL

Two Screech Owl nests were found, both at Minneapolis. Eisele and Downey discovered 3 young about half-grown in one of these on June 12th. The other nest was found by Upson on June 14th and contained 3 large young.

GREAT HORNED OWL

Eleven nests of old baleful-eyed Bubo were reported. Breckenridge found the first in Anoka County on February 18th. The contents were 2 eggs. The last was found in Roseau County by Fryklund on April 5th and contained 3 eggs in which incubation was advanced. Hiemenz found 2 large young of this species in an old Heron's nest in the midst of a Great Blue Heron colony on May 4th. The degree of amity

experienced is left to conjecture, but as there were no young herons at this date the two species probably got along fairly well. Stein and the writer found the customary stercoraceous pudence permeating the interiors of several hollow-tree habitations of their acquaintance, but do not feel that it should be classed as an inducement to find owl's nests.

#### WESTERN BURROWING OWL

Mrs. Peterson of Madison furnishes us with a report of 5 adults and 15 young of this species huddled together about holes on July 16th. On August 13th they were "flying around learning to strike at make-believe prey."

#### NORTHERN BARRED OWL

Three nests of the Barred Owl, whose eerie nocturnal ululations have struck terror into the hearts of many a credulous person and cowering rodent, were found this year. The first, located by Stein on March 24th, contained 3 eggs. It was later deserted. The second, found by Stein and the writer on March 30th, contained 2 eggs, and the last, discovered by the writer on April 21st, held 2 eggs. All of these nests were in the vicinity of Shakopee.

#### LONG-EARED OWL

Three nests of Wilson's Owl were reported. The first was found by Stein on April 2nd. It was located in the tamarack swamp on Highway #5 near Minneapolis and contained 3 eggs. It was deserted. The second nest was found by Swedenborg on April 20th, being located in the Normandale tamarack swamp near Minneapolis. On that date it held one egg. "On the 25th of April it held 3 eggs, on the 13th of May, 5 eggs, on the May 27th it held four young and one unhatched egg. The largest young one at that time was at least four times as large as the smallest." Eisele and Downey report a nest of this species near Minneapolis on April 30th containing 5 eggs.

#### EASTERN NIGHTHAWK

The only reported nest of this crepuscular bird was found by Hanson near Ely on June 8th. It consisted of the usual 2 eggs.

#### CHIMNEY SWIFT

The only investigated nest containing eggs was seen at Shakopee by the writer on May, when it held 2. This is an exceptionally early date. Hiemenz observed Swifts collecting twigs at St. Cloud on June 3rd and on June 14th saw an almost-completed nest. He states that he has "found a nest of these birds in this chimney each year beginning in 1929. The nest is always placed directly below the nest of last year and about 6 feet below the top of the chimney."

#### RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Two nests of this winged gem were seen. Grimes saw an almost-finished nest in Pennington County on June 5th. It was later deserted. On July 7th the writer observed a nest near Shakopee which harbored 2 "very small" young, two or three days old.

EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER

Nine nesting-sites of the kingfisher were reported. Several were investigated, the first by Hiemenz of St. Cloud. It held 6 fresh eggs on May 11th. Hanson examined the last nest near Ely on June 15th, when the contents were 5 fresh eggs. A nest found by the writer on June 12th contained several young birds nearly ready to leave and who were (judging from the subterranean sounds) having a "rattling good time." One of them was bold enough to come to the entrance of the nest, and when proffered a finger he eagerly seized it in his greedy beak, then tried to retreat with the morsel. The owner of the digit had other plans for it, however; but to make the recalcitrant rogue relinquish his hold it was necessary to drag him forth bodily. After the finger was disengaged he was replaced in the tunnel, where he lost little time in scuttling out of sight and reach, instinctively rattling choice kingfisher anathemas as he disappeared.

NORTHERN FLICKER

Fourteen were reported. The first was found by Cummins at Redwood Falls on May 13th, the contents of which were 5 eggs. No dates of nests with eggs later than May 16th were reported. The writer found a nest which contained vociferous young on May 20th. Swedenborg discovered a nest on June 24th, near Grand Marais, which contained small young and was located in a stump only 3 feet from the ground.

NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER

Three nests of this magnificent bird were located. One of these was being excavated on March 7th and was apparently completed on March 26th, according to the observer, Hiemenz, who found it near St. Cloud. The female flew from this nest on April 2nd, but its inaccessibility prevented knowledge of the contents. The same observer discovered a completed but empty nest on May 1st. Breckenridge reports a nest which contained 3 young on May 21st. It was found in Anoka County.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

Ten nests were seen, but few were investigated. Birds were seen excavating on May 26th by Hiemenz, St. Cloud. Nests with incubating birds were observed on May 20th (writer) and May 26th (Hiemenz), but further investigations of the nests were not made. Cummings reports a nest with 5 small young at Red Wing on June 10th, and Grines found a nest on June 21st in Pennington County which held 3 small young.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Cummings reports the only nest of this species. It was found near Red Wing on June 20th and contained young birds.

EASTERN Hairy WOODPECKER

Seven nests were reported. The first occupied nest was found on May 1st by Hiemenz near St. Cloud, but the contents were undetermined. Grines reports a nest with 2 young on the point of leaving, found on June 8th in Pennington County. Several occupied nests were reported but were not investigated.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER

Seven nests of the Downy were reported, most of which were uninvestigated or inaccessible. Hiemenz lists a completed but empty nest at St. Cloud on March 26th. He also found a nest on May 16th in which the female was incubating, but did not determine the contents. On June 24th Swedenborg found a nest with large young near the Brule River, Cooks County, and the following day Hiemenz discovered a nest at St. Cloud which also held large young.

EASTERN KINGBIRD

This species is represented by fifteen reported nests. Hiemenz found the first at St. Cloud on June 7th, on which date it contained 2 fresh eggs. The latest was found by Risser at Sturgeon Lake on June 27th. It held 2 eggs.

ARKANSAS KINGBIRD

We chalk up eleven nests for this loquacious fellow. Grimes reports the first, found in Pennington County on June 12th when it held 5 eggs. He discovered the last nest in the same locality on June 23rd. This nest contained 2 eggs. A nest found on July 6th by Bill Webb at Le Sueur harbored 5 young.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER

Three nests reported. Grimes found a partially-completed nest in Pennington County on June 7th. The second nest, which contained young, was found by Cummings at Minneapolis on June 13th, and the last was found at Red Wing on July 10th by the same observer. It held 3 young.

EASTERN PHOEBE

Forty nests were reported of this denizen of decrepit dwellings, culverts and bridges. The earliest was found by Mrs. Peterson and J. Jones near Madison on April 14th when it held 1 egg. The last was discovered by Hanson on July 9th near Ely. Three eggs comprised the contents.

ALDER FLYCATCHER

Nine nests of the Alder were found, all by Grimes in Pennington County. One of these held 2 eggs and a Cowbird egg on June 12th. The last nest, found on June 23rd, contained 4 eggs. Six of the nests were burdened with Cowbird eggs.

LEAST FLYCATCHER

The little Chebec finds his way into the list with twenty-one nests to his credit. Morse found a newly-built nest with no content at Mille Lacs on May 28th. The first investigated nest with eggs was found by Grimes in Pennington County on June 8th. The content was one egg. He also reports an unfinished nest for the same locality found on June 21st. The last nest with eggs was found by Risser at Sturgeon Lake on June 19th -- contents, 3 eggs. This observer found a nest with young about half-grown at the same place on June 28th.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE

A total of eleven nests reported. An almost-finished nest was found at Frontenac on May 21st by Risser and Swanson. The first nest with eggs was found by Grimes in Pennington County on June 15th, when it held 3 eggs. Hiemenz lists the last nest with eggs, found near St. Cloud on June 25th. It contained 2 eggs. Newly-hatched young were seen at Shakopee on July 1st by the writer.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK

Four nests reported. The first was found on March 20th by Fischer, Stein and the writer at Shakopee. Three frozen eggs were lying beside the nest. In this case the eggs were ruined because of the enthusiasm of the observers, who, endeavoring to locate the nest, stationed themselves unknowingly quite close to it for a considerable length of time and prevented the bird's return to the eggs. Hiemenz found the second nest near St. Cloud on March 27th. It contained 4 eggs. The same nest harbored a young bird about 2 days old on April 7th. Grimes discovered a nest containing 5 small young in Pennington County on June 10th, and on June 19th located another which held 4 small young.

TREE SWALLOW

Ten breeding records of the Tree Swallow were received. Cummings reports the earliest occupied nest. It was seen on May 17th. The first investigated nest was examined by Hiemenz on June 13th near St. Cloud. One egg reposed therein. Grimes discovered 6 eggs in a nest found in Red Lake County on June 14th. Morse reports the last nest, which was found at Robbinsdale on May 27th. It contained 5 eggs, and was located in a bird-house, as were several of the others reported.

BANK SWALLOW

From data received on eleven colonies we find that the first investigated nest was examined on May 21st by Hiemenz, near Onamia. This nest held 7 eggs. Our last date is supplied by Grimes, who examined a nest in Pennington County on June 13th, the contents of said nest being one newly-hatched young and 5 eggs.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

Six breeding records of this species obtained. Swedenborg furnishes us the first information, that of a nest found near Minneapolis on June 3rd which contained 3 eggs. Hiemenz reports the last, found near St. Cloud on June 26th. It harbored 5 newly-hatched young.

BARN SWALLOW

Sixteen records of this bird contributed. The first, seen by Upson on June 3rd, held 6 eggs, while the latest was reported by Swedenborg, who examined a nest near Minneapolis on July 15th. The latter contained 3 eggs.

NORTHERN CLIFF SWALLOW

Four colonies of this interesting swallow were seen. The nesting-site of the little colony at Minneapolis seems to be falling into desuetude, for the number of birds has dwindled until, according to Swedenborg, "only one pair built in the colony...this year. They commenced building on May 16th, and were incubating on June 10th." The records by two other observers are in happy contradiction. Grimes counted 262 nests beneath the eaves of a barn in Pennington County on June 15th. One of the nests which was examined held 5 eggs and another 4. (This is one of the largest colonies reported in the state in recent years.) In Marshall County he saw a colony of 23 nests beneath the eaves of a shed on June 18th. Hiemenz saw a colony of 20 nests near Pine River, Cass County, on June 16th. Several were being built; one held 4 eggs, while several others housed incubating birds.

PURPLE MARTIN

Six breeding records obtained. Morse found the contents of a nest at Robbinsdale to be 3 eggs on June 4th. Several nests with young were examined, and young out of the nest are reported by Morse for July 17th.

CANADA JAY

On June 20th in Itasca Park a family party of 3 sooty young jays travelling with their elders was seen by Stein and the writer. Swedenborg watched another family at Loon Lake, Cook County, on June 22nd. The young birds in this party were also full grown but in the dark plumage.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY

Fourteen nests of this ribald rascal reported. The first was located in Powderhorn Park, Minneapolis, on April 26th by John Huseby. It held 6 eggs. Swanson found the last, containing 4 eggs, on May 22nd at Coon Creek.

EASTERN CROW

Records of thirty-one nests received. Hiemenz found a nest near St. Cloud on April 10th which held 2 fresh eggs. Mrs. Peterson and J. Jones discovered a nest with 6 eggs at Madison on April 14th. A nest containing 3 newly-hatched young and 2 eggs was found in Pennington County on June 6th by Grimes. Swanson reports 2 fully-fledged young near St. Paul on May 24th. Young Crows just out of the nest were very common in Norman County, where they were observed by Stein and the writer on June 15th. The birds nested in most of the small growths of trees found in the sparsely-settled areas.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Seven nests found. Hiemenz reports an occupied nest seen near St. Cloud on April 25th, but did not ascertain its contents until May 9th. Upon revisiting it he found that a storm had broken the stub off just at the nest, which contained 7 eggs. The birds, of course, had

deserted. Two nests found by Risser and Swanson at Frontenac on May 21st held 7 and 9 eggs respectively. Several young ready to leave comprised the contents of a nest seen by Stein and the writer on June 5th.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Eight nests were reported. Hiemenz discovered a nest with 7 fresh eggs near St. Cloud on April 27th. The last nest was located by Cummings in Redwood County on May 14th, on which date it contained 5 eggs. On April 28th at Lake Minnetonka the writer observed an adult nuthatch feeding a young bird just out of the nest. Needless to say, this was an exceptionally early date to find young of this species abroad.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Swedenborg saw an adult of this species carrying food at Loon Lake, Cook County, on June 19th.

HOUSE WREN

Twenty-six nests examined. A nest with 3 fresh eggs was found near St. Cloud on June 7th by Hiemenz. The last was seen by Swedenborg near Minneapolis on July 22nd, when it contained 6 eggs. Jenny's oft-unconventional habits were illustrated by several nests reported. Grimes found one in an old gallon kerosene can on the ground in a field; the same person saw another on top of a gasoline pump, and Hiemenz discovered a third in the motor of an old car.

PRAIRIE MARSH WREN

Twelve nests and a number of the concomitant dummy nests reported. Grimes found the first in Pennington County on June 7th when it held 6 eggs. The last was discovered by Stein and the writer in Norman County on June 17th. The contents were 6 eggs. A nest found at Thief Lake, Marshall County, by Grimes on June 18th harbored 6 young birds.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN

A number of dummy nests of this species were reported, but the only nest containing eggs was discovered by Grimes in Pennington County on June 20th. It held 7 eggs.

CATBIRD

Forty-seven investigated nests reported. Swedenborg found the first, located at Excelsior, where it contained 2 eggs on May 21st. Hiemenz reports the last. It was found near St. Cloud on July 11th and held 3 eggs.

BROWN THRASHER

Eighteen nests found. A nest found by Stein on May 15th held 3 eggs, and another found by the writer on the same date held a like number of eggs. Both were seen near Shakopee. Mrs. Peterson discovered the last nest near Madison on June 24th, when the contents were 3 eggs.

EASTERN ROBIN

It would be unnecessary to state that the usual number of nests of this well-known bird were seen. Fifty-two of those investigated were reported. Eisele lists the earliest, containing 1 egg. It was found near Minneapolis on April 20th. To Risser goes the distinction of having discovered the last, which, found near Sturgeon Lake on June 27th, was the repository of 2 eggs.

WOOD THRUSH

Two nests were seen. The writer found the first on May 20th near Shakopee. The contents were 2 eggs which hatched on June 10th. A nest which the young were just leaving was seen by Cummings near Red Wing on July 4th.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH

Swedenborg found a nest of this bird at the Brule River, Cook County, on June 24th. It contained 3 young about 3 days old and 1 unhatched egg. This find is significant, as it is one of the few nests of the Olive-backed discovered in the state.

WILLOW THRUSH

Three nests of the Veery were found, plus a nest in the process of construction which was seen by Cummings on May 28th in Goodhue County. Hiemenz found a nest near Bakus, Cass County, on June 15th, on which date it contained 2 eggs. Huseby reports a nest found at Lake Mille Lacs on July 10th. It held 1 young bird and 1 addled egg. Young just out of the nest were seen by Risser at Sturgeon Lake on June 26th.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Twenty-seven nests reported. The first, found near Minneapolis on May 5th by Swedenborg, contained 3 eggs. He also found the last in the same vicinity on July 22nd, when it held 4 eggs. The same observer reports eight nests, found between the above dates, which were built in rural newspaper boxes. Axel Hansen reports several nests located in rural mailboxes.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT

According to Dr. Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota", only one known nest of the Missouri Skylark has been recorded for the state, although the bird breeds extensively all over the Red River Valley. A second was found in Pennington County on June 20th of this year by Grimes. On that date the nest contained 1 fresh egg, and when revisited on the 24th it held 5 eggs.

CEDAR WAXWING

Eight nests found. The first was found near St. Cloud on June 19th by Hiemenz. It held 1 fresh egg, and when next seen on the 25th the number had been increased to 5. Risser discovered the last nest, which was found near Sturgeon Lake on July 5th. The contents were 3 eggs.

MIGRANT SHRIKE

Thirteen nests were reported. Hiemenz located the first near St. Cloud on May 1st, when it contained 5 eggs. The last was found by Morse near Robbinsdale on June 28th. Its contents, a second brood, consisted of 4 young and 1 egg.

STARLING

Three breeding records contributed. On May 20th near Red Wing Risser and Swanson observed a female feeding young in a nest which was located in a church steeple. The Starling nested at St. Cloud this year, according to the following interesting note from Hiemenz: "One nest found. June 7th, nest and 4 fresh eggs. It was in a Flicker's hole 15 feet up in a dead limb of an elm tree on an island in the Mississippi at St. Cloud. A broken Flicker's egg lay on the ground below the nest...This same pair, I presume, also nested on this same island last year, when a nest containing 5 fresh eggs was found on May 30th. The nest then was in an old woodpecker's hold 15 feet up in a dead tree. Besides this pair the only other record I have of this species is for April 10, 1933, when a flock of 10 were seen in town." Grimes saw a bird with food fly to a hole in an elm tree in Winona County, not far from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, June 26th.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

Two nests found. Hiemenz discovered one which contained 1 fresh egg on May 26th, at St. Cloud. This nest held 4 eggs when next seen on June 1st. The finder states that "the female was on the nest and I had to pick her up to get a look at the contents. When set down on a twig beside the nest she immediately went on it again." Grimes found a nest in Pennington County on June 6th which was newly-started. It contained 3 eggs on June 17th. Young birds being fed out of the nest were seen by the writer on July 1st at Shakopee.

RED-EYED VIREO

Eight nests were reported, the first being found by Grimes in Pennington County on June 15th, when it held 1 egg. The last nest was discovered by Morse at Mille Lacs on July 22nd. It contained 1 egg. Birds feeding young out of the nest were seen by Hiemenz on July 11th near St. Cloud.

EASTERN WARBLING VIREO

Eighteen nests reported. Hiemenz found a nest near St. Cloud on June 1st, the contents of which were 2 fresh eggs. Risser saw the latest nest, which was found near Sturgeon Lake on June 27th and contained 2 eggs. This nest later held 3 eggs. Young out of the nest and which were being fed were seen by the writer at Shakopee on July 1st.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER

The only nest of this creeper was reported by Swedenborg. It was found by Alice Swedenborg on June 19th at Loon Lake, Cook County, and held 4 eggs. On June 21st the writer saw a young bird out of the nest being fed in Itasca Park.

EASTERN YELLOW WARBLER

The usual number of nests of this bird were found, thirty-four having been reported. Two nests, contained 1 egg and 3 eggs respectively, were found on May 22nd by Swanson at Cook Creek. The last nest reported was found in Pennington County on June 23rd by Grimes. It contained 3 fresh eggs. A most unusual nest of this species is reported by Hiemenz. It was found near Pine River, Cass County, and was situated 45 feet from the ground in a jack pine. It was completed but empty.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER

The only nest reported was found on June 26th by Swedenborg, about 5 miles south of McGregor. The contents were 2 warbler eggs and two eggs of the Cowbird.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

An adult of this species carrying food was seen in Itasca Park on June 20th by the writer.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

On June 20th the writer observed an adult feeding a young bird out of the nest, in Itasca Park. Swedenborg saw an adult female feeding a young unable to fly, at Loon Lake, Cook County, on June 22nd.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER

Risser saw an adult carrying nesting material on June 25th near Sturgeon Lake. In contrast, young just out of the nest were seen by Hanson near Ely on the same date.

OVEN-BIRD

Cummings observed an adult feeding young at Lake Minnetonka on June 13th.

GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH

Swedenborg reports young being fed on June 20th. This observation was made on an island in Loon Lake, Cook County.

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT

Three nests were found. The first was discovered by Elsele and Hansen near Minneapolis on June 2nd, when the contents were 4 eggs. Hiemenz found a nest near St. Cloud on June 8th which held 5 eggs, and the last was reported by Elsele, who found it near Minneapolis on June 11th, on which date it contained 4 eggs.

AMERICAN REDSTART

Seven reported. Swanson found a nest containing 3 eggs at Coon Creek on May 22nd. The last nest was discovered by Grimes, who found it on June 26th in Winona County. It held 3 eggs of the owner as well as a Cowbird egg. Morse reports young of this species very numerous in a tamarack swamp on July 25th.

ENGLISH SPARROW

Eight nesting dates for this ubiquitous species received. Hiemenz found a nest near St. Cloud on April 26th, on which date it harbored large young. A nest with 3 eggs was found on July 23rd near Minneapolis by Swedenborg. Hiemenz saw two nests in the vicinity of Pine River, Cass County, which were located 35 and 50 feet from the ground in jack pines.

BOBOLINK

Four nests were found. A nest with 3 eggs found in Pennington County by Grimes on June 6th held 4 eggs and 1 egg of the Cowbird on June 8th. Another nest, found by Grimes at Thief Lake, Marshall County, on June 18th, held 1 egg. Swanson discovered a nest with 4 small young in Pennington County on June 20th, and another on June 21st which harbored 3 young about two-thirds fledged.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK

Brackett found a nest at Robbinsdale on May 29th, the contents of which were 2 eggs. Stein and the writer saw a nest near Shakopee on May 26th which contained 5 eggs. Cummings saw young out of the nest at Red Wing on June 20th.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Six reported, the first being found by Swanson, in Dakota County, on May 7th, when it held 5 eggs. Grimes reports the last, which was found in Pennington County on June 12th and contained 6 eggs. Young well able to fly were seen at St. Cloud on June 19th by Hiemenz.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

The customary number of nests were seen, the first being reported by Cummings, who found it at Fort Snelling on May 24th, when it contained 2 eggs. No dates for eggs later than June 15th were reported. Young out of the nest were seen by Grimes at Thief Lake on June 18th.

GIANT RED-WING

A set of 4 eggs was seen by Morse near Minneapolis on May 18th. No dates for eggs later than June 18th were reported. Young out of the nest were seen by Hiemenz at St. Cloud on June 5th.

ORCHARD ORIOLE

Five nests of this interesting bird were seen. The first was found by Hiemenz at St. Cloud on June 13th, when it contained 5 eggs. On the 23rd the nest harbored young, and another nest containing 5 young about a week old was found. The finder states that there were at least four pairs of this species nesting in the tourist park at St. Cloud, where the above were located. Cummings examined three nests at Red Wing on June 20th, all of which held young.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

Thirty-one nests were reported. Two eggs comprised the contents of one found on May 20th at Red Wing by Cummings. Grimes discovered the latest in Pennington County on June 24th, when it held 4 eggs.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

Twenty-four reported, the first, containing 5 eggs, having been found by Cummings on May 7th at Lake Minnetonka. Grimes found a nest in Pennington County on June 6th - contents, 6 eggs. A nest found by Swanson at Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis, was placed 5 feet up in a spruce. This particular bird apparently aspired to greater heights than most of its kind.

BRONZED GRACKLE

Twenty-seven nest dates contributed. Two nests found at St. Cloud on April 28th by Hiemenz contained 2 or 3 eggs respectively. The last nest was found by Mrs. Peterson at Madison on May 20th, when it held 4 eggs. Hiemenz observed young out of the nest being fed on May 31st.

EASTERN COWBIRD

Eggs or young of this all too common bird were found in nests of the following species: Alder Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Redstart, Bobolink, Redwing, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, and Savannah, Vesper, Chipping, Clay-colored, Swamp and Song Sparrows. The earliest egg was found by Hiemenz in a nest of the Song Sparrow on May 11th. The latest egg was also reported by Hiemenz, and was also found in a Song Sparrow's nest, which was seen on July 11th. Grimes found 5 eggs of this species foisted upon a Song Sparrow.

SCARLET TANAGER

Three nests of this strikingly beautiful bird seen this year. The first was discovered by Dr. Prosser near Mandota on June 3rd. The 3 eggs which it contained were viewed with interest by several members of this organization who were present. Two nests were found by Hiemenz. One, located near St. Cloud, held 1 egg and 2 Cowbird eggs on June 6th, and the other, containing 1 newly-hatched young and 1 egg, plus a Cowbird egg, was found near Backus, Cass County, on June 16th.

EASTERN CARDINAL

Three nests of the Redbird were reported. Brackett reports a nest found on April 30th in Glenwood Park, Minneapolis. It was placed in a small spruce and contained 1 egg. The nest was deserted a day or so later. Fischer and Swanson found two nests in Fillmore County on May 14th, one of which was completed but empty. The other held 3 eggs.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

Thirteen nests were reported. Morse and Brackett found one near Hamel on May 20th, being the container of 1 egg on that date. A nest seen by Risser and Swanson at Frontenac on May 21st held 3 eggs. The last nest was found by Hiemenz at St. Cloud on June 23rd, when it contained 3 eggs.

INDIGO BUNTING

Two nests were found, both on June 7th. Swanson observed a nest which was in the process of construction at Nine Mile Creek, near Minneapolis. Hiemenz found a nest containing 1 egg and 1 Cowbird egg at St. Cloud. This nest was later deserted.

DICKCISSEL

That this nomad appeared in such numbers as to make 1933 a "Dickcissel Year" is evinced by the numerous reports of its abundance which have come from many parts of the state. Six nests were reported. Grimes found a nest in Pennington County on June 23rd, when it held 1 egg. Another nest which he found on the 24th held 3 eggs. Hiemenz found a nest on July 6th near Piertz which contained 3 hatching eggs and a Cowbird egg. Swedenborg reports young out of the nest being fed on July 8th (near Minneapolis). Risser found the bird nesting in the Canadian Zone at Sturgeon Lake, where he discovered a nest containing 3 eggs on July 1st. This occurrence is most interesting and unexpected.

EASTERN PURPLE FINCH

Two nests were found. Hiemenz discovered one on June 16th near Backus, Cass County. It contained 4 eggs. Hanson reports a nest containing 1 egg, which was found near Ely on July 16th. Risser saw adults of this species feeding young out of the nest on June 19th at Sturgeon Lake.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH

Six nests of the "Wild Canary" were reported. Two nests found by Morse at New Brighton on July 16th held 5 eggs and 5 newly-hatched young respectively. Mrs. Peterson reports the last nest, found on August 2nd at Madison. It contained 6 eggs.

RED-EYED TOWHEE

A nest of the chewink found by Cummings at Red Wing on June 23rd contained a single young bird.

EASTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW

Fourteen nests reported. The first was found by Swedenborg near Minneapolis on May 27th and contained 4 eggs. A nest with 2 fresh eggs was found by Grimes in Pennington County on June 20th. Swedenborg relates that "a nest of this species was raided by a garter snake near Minneapolis on August 12th. Two young about 4 days old were found, one in the mouth of the snake.

WESTERN HENSLOW'S SPARROW

A nest of this elusive little sparrow, the smallest of its tribe in Minnesota, was found by Hiemenz near St. Cloud. This find constitutes perhaps the most interesting record of this year's list, for although Henslow's Sparrow is generally distributed throughout the southern half of Minnesota, its shy, retiring habits, as well as its habitat make it exceedingly difficult to find. According to Dr. Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota" only one other known nest of this species has been reported for the state. Hiemenz describes his discovery in

this wise: "On June 5th a bird flushed at my feet. I was walking through rank marsh grass along the outer edge of a slough. After a short search I discovered the nest. It was placed 6 inches above the moist, boggy ground in the tangled dead growth of last year. The nest was a small, neat structure, externally composed of coarse, wiry grass and was lined with finer grass. It contained 1 fresh egg which was pure white, with a few brownish and purplish spots about larger end. The bird was very shy and elusive and hard to identify; it took over 15 minutes before I was satisfied that it was Henslow's Sparrow."

EASTERN VESPER SPARROW

Seven nests reported. The first, containing 3 eggs, was found by Swedenborg near Minneapolis on May 14th. Grimes discovered the last which was found in Pennington County on June 15th and held 2 eggs and 2 Cowbird eggs.

EASTERN LARK SPARROW

A nest with one young bird was found on July 4th near Red Wing by Cummings.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW

Records of thirteen nests received. Stein and the writer found the first, which held 3 eggs, on May 11th at Shakopee. Two nests containing 1 egg each were found on June 23rd at Taylor's Falls by Morse.

CLAY-CLORED SPARROW

Twenty-five nests reported. A nest found by Morse near Robbinsdale on May 27th held 3 eggs. The latest nest was located by Risser, who found it near Sturgeon Lake on June 29th, on which date it contained 4 eggs.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW

Three nests found, all on May 21st. Two were found by Risser and Swanson at Frontenac and held 1 egg and 3 eggs respectively. The other was found by Eisele at Minneapolis. The contents of this nest were 4 eggs, and the finder says that he "had to move this nest with the aid of a shovel 2 times because the field was being plowed and harrowed. The eggs all hatched 3 days later.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Hanson found a nest of this charming bird near Ely on July 15th, when it housed 3 newly-hatched young. Young just out of the nest were seen by Risser at Sturgeon Lake on July 1st.

SWAMP SPARROW

Six nests of this species found. Eisele and Hansen found two on May 29th, the contents being 4 and 6 eggs respectively. Hiemenz found the last nest, discovered at St. Cloud on June 25th, when it held 3 fresh eggs.

DAKOTA SONG SPARROW

Twenty nests of this familiar friend were reported. The first was found by Risser at White Bear, near St. Paul, on April 30th, and contained 1 egg. Not satisfied with this, he reported the last, which he found at Sturgeon Lake on June 26th. The interior was occupied by 1 egg of the owner and 2 of the Cowbird, and the observer narrates concerning it thusly: "This nest was five and a half feet up in a Norway Pine, and was so bulky that I first thought it was a thrasher's nest. The inside diameter was  $2 \frac{3}{4}$  inches and the outside diameter (exclusive of loose grasses) was 7 inches."

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

A very interesting and now uncommon species is added to our list with the finding of its nest in Pennington County by Swanson. Discovered on June 19th, the nest contained 3 eggs, which number has been increased to 4 by the 20th. The bird was so tame that Grimes took several photographs of her on the nest from within a few feet without bothering to conceal himself or the camera. Incidentally, this is, according to records in Dr. Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota", the first known nest of this species found in the state since 1898.

-oOo-

It would perhaps be of interest to know that since the inception of these annual reports, in 1929, we have recorded data on 162 species of Minnesota birds. Nests were seen of 143 of these species.

We ardently hope that our contributions, however small, to the ornithological data of this state may be augmented and repeated many times during the future existence of the Minnesota Bird Club.

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INTRODUCED BIRDS AT FORT SNELLING

by Gustav Swanson

Three years ago, in the spring of 1930, considerable attention was given in the local newspapers to the interesting experiment in game bird introduction which was then carried on by the officials at Fort Snelling. The plan was to introduce the California Quail, which I believe all will agree is a handsome bird. To that end a considerable number of the quail were obtained and liberated after having been kept in captivity for some time after their arrival. Since that time, however, no newspaper space has been devoted to the project, and many others, in common with myself, had assumed that the original stock of birds had died off, and the whole experiment had doubtless been given up as a failure.

It was something of a surprise, therefore, to learn that the present commanding officials are also interested in maintaining the Ft. Snelling reservation as an area for the propagation of game birds - a laboratory, as they term it, in which problems of game management can be investigated. There is some interest also, in attracting enough birds during the open seasons, to provide shooting for the resident army men at the reservation.

A telephone conversation with Captain Newton W. Speece of the Ft. Snelling staff brought out the interesting information that actual propagation of birds was still in progress. In 1932 three dozen California Quail were liberated, and early in June 1933 two dozen more were released. The introduction was successful at least to the extent that in the fall of 1932 Capt. Speece found a brood of 5 or 6 young with an adult, and another officer also observed a brood of young. This year, as is indicated in the nesting list in this issue, one of our club members observed another brood of young.

Even though these few birds have been successful in rearing young it seems to me that the final success of the introduction is in no wise assured. It is difficult to predict the lot of any introduced species, and the California Quail finds Minnesota conditions, especially in winter, very different from those of its native range.

In addition to the California Quail a few other species have been imported to the reservation. In 1932 thirty-five Mountain Quail were also brought in and released. Capt. Speece had no evidence that these birds had survived the winter or reared young.

In order to supplement the small stock of Bob-white which is present on the reservation, four dozen of these quail from Carolina were released, the hope being that they would strengthen the native birds in strain and numbers. There is no way of determining the effect of these birds, because the Carolina strain, especially after interbreeding with the northern birds, would be indistinguishable from the northern quail already present on the reservation. Some other experiments, however, have indicated that southern birds

are less hardy and do not survive well the vigors of a Minnesota winter.

The last bird to be mentioned is the Black Pheasant, of which 20 were liberated this summer. These birds, Capt. Speece said, were obtained from the state game and fish division. The Fort officers are confident that some, at least, of these several species will be successful in establishing themselves to add to the list of native game birds. Twin City bird people will be watching the progress of the whole experiment with interest.

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WHISPER SONGS

by Nellie O. Wilson

Many birds, at times, practice their songs in undertones or whispers. I have heard the Brown Thrasher sing in a subdued or whispered voice and have found the song more appealing than when shouted from the tree-tops.

One is fortunate to hear the subdued song because of the difficulty in approaching near enough to distinguish the notes.

The Catbird is much more addicted to whisper singing than the Brown Thrasher. Perhaps this is because he so often sings from the bush where his nest is located. Mayhap he sings more to his mate and less to the world at large.

The Brown Thrasher is like an opera singer and wants all the world to hear and applaud, while the Catbird is more domestic and sings for the comfort and pleasure of his wife.

On a beautiful May morning as I walked through Chihuahita Park, I heard an Olive-backed Thrush whispering his song. He was but a few steps from the path in the shade of a rose bush. He was in an ecstasy of anticipation, doubtless thinking of his home among the pines. His song was of considerable length, very lovely and quite perfect, though so faint and fairy-like that I could not have heard it had I been but a few steps farther away.

One occasionally hears a Robin sing a low, sleepy song when all is well with his world and the weather is warm and comforting.

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HERE AND THERE

ABNORMALLY-COLORED SCARLET TANAGER

After reading the brief note and inquiry in the last issue of THE FLICKER about a strange yellow bird seen by Marius Morse, I decided to tell about a similiar observation I made at Whitefish Lake, near Pine River, Minnesota.

I saw this bird, which was pale yellow all over, a little darker on the back and wings, three times (on three different days) in a jack pine stand. It was Bluebird size but more slender. In each case I was attracted by its peculiar call, which resembled the two-syllabled Tanager call, with a Tanager-like quality of tone. In my field notes I have described the call as "Chip-tie!" with the emphasis on the last syllable and a pause between the syllables, Tanager-like.

Upon consulting Dr. Roberts' book I put the bird down in my journal as an abnormally-colored Scarlet Tanager, which I feel sure it was. -- A. C. Rosenwinkel.

A GOOD WORD FOR THE HOUSE SPARROW

A daily walk about two and one-half miles along the Mississippi River to the University in the morning and again home in the evening constituted practically all of my birding last spring. Although entirely within the residential districts of the Twin Cities, these walks have proved very interesting, not because of the unusual species seen, for there are few or none of these, but because they offered an opportunity to become better acquainted with the more common ones. The following remarks taken from my notes for May 31, 1933, tell of something I learned about the commonest of our birds, the oft-cursed House Sparrow:

"For some time I have noticed large numbers of House Sparrows in the trees along the river. Today I discovered that they are eating the 'worms' which are so plentiful on the leaves. Many were flying away to their nests with bills full of juicy green caterpillars; others seemed to have brought the families and just stayed there eating and having a high old time in the tree-tops. Judging from the number of sparrows and their apparent voracity, I am sure they must have eaten more caterpillars than all of the vireos and orioles together, although both of the latter are very common." -- Charles Evans.

COMPANIONS

On May 13th I saw a young Ring-billed Gull and a Loon keeping close friends on Como Lake. They were the only swimmers on the lake, and always remained within at least 4 or 5 feet of each other. After a lapse of 3 hours they were still together, close friends.

--- A. C. Rosenwinkel

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THE FLICKER

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by the

MINNESOTA BIRD CLUB

President, Gustav Swanson, 3305-47th Ave. S., Minneapolis  
Vice-President, Stanley Stein, Shakopee  
Secy-Treas., Marius Morse, 4031-40th Ave. N., Robbinsdale  
Editor, Alden Risser, 1012 Laurel Ave., St. Paul  
Dues, active members, \$1 per annum; associate members, 50¢

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The October meeting was held on Friday, the 13th because by so postponing the meeting one day we were lucky enough to secure an evening's entertainment by Mr. Breckenridge, who described his trip to the Hudson Bay region during the past summer and illustrated with motion pictures. The other members of the expedition were Mrs. Breckenridge and Dr. and Mrs. Green, the latter two of the Department of Bacteriology.

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We met again on November 9th, at which time Mr. Kenneth Carlander gave an interesting talk on his experiences while collecting in Texas last summer, also illustrated with moving pictures. It was decided that the club as a whole will make a trip to Sturgeon Lake during the Christmas holidays. Definite plans for the trip will be made at the December meeting, and those unable to attend this meeting but who are interested in participating in the expedition should confer with one of the officers of the club (see above).

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We are asking you all to keep a record of all birds seen during the Christmas vacation period (Dec. 22-Jan. 7) and to send these records to the editor on or before January 10th in order that we may compile a composite Christmas census list, as we have done several times in the past.

DONALD FISCHER  
1910 - 1933

By Gustav Swanson and Alden Rissor

The loss which we experienced in the passing of our friend and past president, Donald Fischer, has been expressed beautifully by Ralph Woolsey in the last issue of the FLICKER. Our purpose here is to sketch a brief biography and to present Don's part in the formation and activities of the bird club.

For some time it has been felt that the several young men interested in birds in the Twin City region could band together for mutual benefit into an informal organization which would provide for a more regular interchange of ideas and experiences than had been possible before. The stumbling block which hindered immediate formation of such a group was the paucity of possible members among our acquaintances until we broached the plan to Don, whom we had met as a fellow member of the Minneapolis Audubon Society.

He immediately fell in with the plan, and it was through him that the members from Shakopee were drawn in, then forming a group large enough, we thought, for the organization of the Minnesota Bird Club.

From the first Don was one of our most enthusiastic members, and his personality and influence, impressed upon all who met him, were responsible for much more than his share of the success of our meetings. Always brimming over with fun and good will, he was a figure who will be severely missed in our meetings to come. When at one time things looked gloomy for the continuance of the FLICKER, it was Don's enthusiasm that prevented our giving it up.

Shakopee was the scene of Don's boyhood days, and he lived there all his life excepting the one year following his university graduation. There he attended grade school and high school, graduating as valedictorian of his class from each. As a boy he was an active member of the Boy Scout troop, and later he worked as assistant scoutmaster.

At the University of Minnesota Don pursued the course in the School of Mines, with some supplementary work in the Geology Department. He was determined to gain all the experience possible even during his university work, and as a result he found work with a mining company in the vicinity of Flin Flon, Manitoba, in the summer of 1929. Here, in a region nearly 500 miles north of Winnipeg, he had little time to

Devote to the study of birds. He did, however, entertain us for some time afterward with accounts of his experiences there, and he wrote an interesting account of his observations of young and adult Canada Spruce Grouse, which appeared in the FLICKER, and is quoted in large part in the biography of the species in Dr. Roberts' book.

The summer of 1931 he spent in the services of the Minnesota Geological Survey, doing field work in several parts of the state with Dr. G. A. Thiel, and working on the material thus gathered the remainder of the summer in Minneapolis. It was on this trip that Dr. Thiel and Don made an acquaintance with the Harmony Cave, the largest cave in Minnesota, as far as is known. They were unable to spend the requisite time to explore this find thoroughly, and Don's desire to return and finish the job led to the trip which he, together with five other members of the bird club, made there that fall.

Those of us who participated in that and many other trips of greater or lesser distance of which he was a member of the party remember what delightful experiences they were, and to what a large extent Don's good cheer and enthusiasm were responsible for the fine time everyone enjoyed. The constant association and petty inconveniences of a camping trip are severe tests of the patience and congeniality of anyone, and we always returned from them impressed with Don's irrepressible humor, his ability to make any situation more pleasant because of his presence.

He spent the year after his graduation from the university mining school in several of the mining states of the west, in an effort to find permanent work. He was unfortunate, however, in finishing his course of study at a time when the mining industry was at its lowest possible ebb, and although he found temporary work at a number of places, a year in the more important mining regions of the west convinced him that opportunities for a young mining engineer were virtually nonexistent. When he returned home it was with the intention of taking up medical studies, following in the foot steps of his father, and he had registered at the university with this purpose just the day before he met his tragic and untimely death.

Don loved nature in all of her aspects. He had an unusual appreciation of beauty in a colorful sunset, or a lovely wooded ravine, or a snow-capped mountain. In the letters which he wrote from the western states he was deep in his praise of their scenic beauty.

One of the treasured experiences of the year in the west, he wrote, was the two weeks he spent with a Bureau of Biological Survey trapper following his trap lines. This gave him the opportunity to see and learn more of the animal life of the west than he was able to do while busy in the mining prospecting work. His interest in natural history is reflected in his membership in the Wilson Ornithological Club, the Catholic Order of Foresters, and the American Forestry Association, besides the Minneapolis Audubon Society and the bird club, as already mentioned.

We have tried to emphasize Don's invariable cheerfulness, youthful enthusiasm, and his clever witticisms which made him the best of companions, but more worthy of emphasis were the high ideals which he held, and from which he never waivered. Unflinching kindness, thoughtfulness, and helpfulness were a part of him. Very rarely do we find a youth who shows the active consideration for others that Don did. This consideration he impartially showed for everyone.

However deeply we feel our loss in his death we will always have vividly pleasant memories of Don, and his sterling character will ever live as a challenge to a more wholesome, cheerful, and kindly way of life.

THE LEAST BITTERN'S MEAL TICKET

By Marius Morse

For the better part of an hour on the afternoon of August 31st, I sat in a boat at the edge of a marsh and silently watched the actions of a Least Bittern as it maneuvered for food. At times, it was all I could do to restrain a sudden outburst of laughter, for to me the bittern was a comedy in itself. The little fellow would stand in one spot for fully fifteen minutes, only slightly moving its head as it calmly surveyed the situation at hand. Then of a sudden, it would spy some juicy morsel in the shallow water, and very cautiously advance, lifting up first one foot and moving it ahead several inches, then bringing up the other.

When about ten inches away from its victim, the bittern stretched out its neck, lowered its bill to a position about two inches above and parallel to the water's surface and remained motionless for a few short seconds. When a lightning-like jab of the long, thin bill into the water and the prey was brought upwards, wriggling and squirming furiously in an effort to break loose. Two times the little bittern caught small minnows in this manner.

A third attempt, however, resulted in the capture of a small, dark brown frog. And now I was really beginning to wonder just how friend bittern thought he was going to manage eating such a large mouthful as this frog with its big, strong, kicking hind legs; yet I supposed the bittern knew what he was up to. So I watched intently as the bittern, with its long, sharp-edged bill, pinched the frog in first one place and then another, giving Rana a complete ducking in the water and a vigorous shake after each pinch.

At first, the frog squirmed and twisted about vigorously, placing its hind legs at the base of the bittern's bill in an attempt to free itself. But soon the frog's movements became weaker and weaker until, in about three minutes, its body was seen to become limp and lifeless. For a few seconds or so after the death of the frog, the bittern continued its procedure of ducking and dipping its catch. Then, with a sudden opening of the bittern's bill and a backward movement of its head, Rana disappeared down the bittern's throat, head first. Three or four gulps and the frog could be seen as a moving buldge in the throat of the bittern as its body slid down the killer's esophagus.

With an air of great satisfaction, the bittern ruffled its neck feathers, turned around abruptly, swayed its neck back and forth very slowly, then scurried into the dense cat-tail growth.

NOTES ON FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF MINNESOTA SHORE BIRDS

By Alden Risser

There are, of course, many places where one could find far better field marks for shore birds than those presented below, but it might be useful to have them available in a compact rather than scattered form, and since most bird students find a special fascination in shore birds, as well as considerable difficulty in identifying them at first, I feel justified in presenting these notes.

THE PLOVERS: Plovers are readily distinguished from other shore birds by the relatively short, dove-like bill.

PIPING PLOVER: The almost snowy white body will immediately distinguish this rare bird from the Semipalmated Plover

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: Resembles a miniature Killdeer without the orange rump, and with only one black breast band.

KILLDEER: Too well known to need comment.

GOLDEN PLOVER: Uncommon. Often inhabits dry meadows. In spring it differs from the Black-bellied in having the upper-parts spotted black and gold rather than black and white. In fall, it is a relatively uniform mottled buffy-brown bird, while the Black-bellied has a mottled light gray back and white upper tail-coverts, and nearly white tail. At all seasons it lacks the black axillaries (feathers under the base of the wing) which characterize the Black-bellied in flight.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Our largest plover. See under Golden Plover. The black axillaries will also distinguish the Black-bellied Plover from any other shore bird, in case one fails to notice the bill.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Uncommon. Usually unmistakable, but the two transverse white bands across the lower back and upper tail coverts, as seen in flight, are diagnostic in any plumage. The turnstone's bill is characteristic, being broad at the base, pointed, and slightly upturned. He has red legs.

WOODCOCK: Generally inhabits deep woods, but may be flushed from places where Wilson's Snipe occurs, but the Woodcock is coarsely mottled, not longitudinally streaked, and shows rufous (reddish-brown) markings on the back.

WILSON'S SNIPE: Too well known to need much comment. See under Woodcock and Long-billed Dowitcher.

UPLAND PLOVER: Strictly a bird of dry fields; not found on shores or mud-flats. The V-shaped markings on the breast are characteristic, and usually visible due to the common habit of alighting on fence posts, telegraph poles, etc. On alighting, the bird raises its wings and folds them slowly.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: The short, rapid wing-beat are diagnostic, once learned. In spring the large, round spots on the underparts suffice for identification. In fall it is the only sandpiper with unstreaked underparts and with no white on tail or tail-coverts except for a narrow rim around the edge of the tail, which is not usually noticed.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: The upperparts are olive-brown, with small, inconspicuous, round dots of a lighter color. The tail is different from that of any other shore bird: the central pair of feathers are the same color as the back; the outer feathers white with black, wavy, transverse bars.

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS: Identical to the following species except in size. Since it is relatively rare, it should be identified only when the Lesser Yellow-legs or some other well known shore bird is present for comparison.

LESSER YELLOW-LEGS: This abundant shore bird has gray upperparts with small, inconspicuous, round dots of a lighter color. It is a slender bird with long, yellow legs, and white upper tail coverts and very light tail. See Stilt Sandpiper, which, however, is much less common.

PECTORAL, WHITE-RUMPED, BAIRD'S, LEAST, AND SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS: These five species resemble one another in shape and in a general way in color pattern, and so are considered together. They are of average sandpiper build (not slender like the Solitary or Yellow-legs). They all have profusely streaked, brown upperparts; they have moderately streaked breasts (except the Semipalmated in fall); they all have dark central tail feathers and light outer feathers, appearing almost white in the field. When seen with one another, the Pectoral is distinctly larger than any of the others, and the Least and Semipalmated are noticeably smaller than the Baird's and White-rumped. The PECTORAL may be identified by the breast, which is more heavily streaked than in the others, and the streaks end abruptly and contrast with the white of the belly, like the line of demarcation between the gray and white of a Junco's underparts. A safer distinction is by the legs, which are pale greenish, while those of the Baird's and White-rumped are dark. The WHITE-RUMPED may be identified by the white rump if it is seen, but this mark is less conspicuous than might be supposed, due to the whitish outer tail feathers. It is more easily identified by the roundness and distinctness of the spots on the neck and breast. This feature is present only in spring, but the White-rump is almost unknown in Minnesota in fall. The BAIRD'S is difficult to identify, but until one has learned the general appearance (scaly buffy-brown, lighter than the Least, and browner than the Semipalmated), a character pointed out to me some years ago by Mr. Breckenridge may be relied on: in the Baird's, the folded wing extends beyond and above the end of the tail, a condition not found in the Least or Semipalmated. The LEAST is darker and browner than the SEMIPALMATED, and has green legs instead of black. In fall, the Semipalmated may be told by the absence of streaks on the breast.

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER: Easily identified in spring by the rich reddish-brown upperparts and the black belly. In fall, the upperparts are plain, unstreaked brown, a condition shared only by the Spotted Sandpiper, but has light outer tail feathers. The bill is always characteristic, being long and curved downward.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: A bird with so long a bill and a fat body could be confused only with a Wilson's Snipe, from which it differs in spring by having solid rufous-colored underparts, and in any plumage by the white patch in the middle of the back and light gray upper tail-coverts, seen in flight. This long, narrow white patch, high up on the back, will distinguish it from a Stilt Sandpiper, Yellow-legs, or any other shore bird.

STILT SANDPIPER: In spring, the transverse bars across the breast are diagnostic. In fall, it resembles the Lesser Yellow-legs, in its size, in the slim form, the long yellow legs, the white upper tail-coverts and light tail, but as usually seen in Minnesota, the upperparts are streaked brown, like a Pectoral's, instead of merely having small indistinct, round dots. It also differs from that species in that it probes for food like a Snipe or Dowitcher, rather than picking like a Yellow-legs or other sandpiper. The Stilt has a long bill, slightly curved downward.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: A rare bird of the prairies, characterized by an unmarked, deep buff-colored breast.

MARbled GODWIT: Another prairie bird confined to the western part of the state. Unmistakable due to very large size, extremely long, up-curved bill, and lack of any white in the plumage.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: A rare bird, almost equally large, and having a similar bill, but characterized in any plumage by its white rump.

SANDERLING: Uncommon. Readily recognized by whiteness of plumage. White and black markings above, pure white beneath. In late spring, the Sanderlings begins to acquire a reddish tinge to the head and back, and reddish-brown markings on the throat and upper breast. The latter markings are unusual in being heaviest on the throat. In this plumage, one may have to rely on the white bar in the wing (seen in flight).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The spring female is unmistakable. In any plumage this species has white upper tail coverts and a light tail. In spring its black legs distinguish it from the Yellow-legs and Stilt Sandpiper. It is not often seen in fall, but phalaropes always have extremely thin bills.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE: A rather rare bird, distinguished from the Wilson's Phalarope by the white bar in the wing (seen in flight.)

HERE AND THERE

BURROWING OWLS: Three pairs of Burrowing Owls nested in a single pasture near Madison this year. The hot, dry season burned the grass until there was not a blade for the cattle, let alone a leaf for an insect to dine upon or to furnish concealment. Yet these owls raised their broods as usual.

The young present a weird appearance; their faces resemble a mask more than an owl's face. A big, round head, large eyes, no visible bill, and two wide, light-colored parallel bars on the throat simulate a huge mouth with lips parted in mirth. Twisting their heads back and forth while the body remains motionless afforded us considerable amusement.

--- Mrs. C. E. Peterson

BIRD MAGIC: Many times have I tried drawing birds to me by rendering the well-known trick of kissing the back of the hand. Sometimes the trick works beautifully, while again it fails to attract or arouse a single bird.

While walking quietly through a tamarack swamp on July 25th, I noticed particularly that there seemed to be a good many birds in the near vicinity, so I decided to try my luck. Pressing the back of my right hand to my lips, I proceeded to effect the famous hissing sound -- very similar to the distress call of a fledgling. In two or three minutes, I had attracted a Yellow Warbler, several Yellow-throated Vireos, a Redstart, a Least Flycatcher, a Chickadee, and a Warbling Vireo. As long as I continued to produce the hissing noise, the birds flitted nervously about in a half-inquisitive, half-frightened manner, peering at me from behind the tamarack trunks and green foliage.

--- Marius Morse

NORTHERN MIGRANTS have been slow in making their appearance in Roseau County this fall. The only owl records I have are

A Snowy Owl at Falun, October 29th.

A Great Gray Owl at Laona, November 2nd.

A flock of more than 25 Whistling Swans was seen on the south shore of Lake of the Woods, near Rocky Point, on Nov. 3rd.

--- P. C. Fryklund

KINGBIRD CHORUS: Eastern and Western Kingbirds are very common here (Madison) in summer. Shortly after 3:00 A.M. they furnish the introduction to the early avian chorus every day. Their musical chatter may not rank high among bird musicians, but the early hour eliminated all others and their united efforts pleased the wakeful listeners.

--- Mrs. C. E. Peterson

A FALL TURNSTONE: On August 11th of the past summer, while looking for shore birds along the east shore of Mille Lacs Lake, I was lucky enough to catch sight of a Ruddy Turnstone feeding out on a rocky reef. Although it was the first of its kind I had ever seen, I had no trouble identifying the bird, as it was strikingly different and distinctive looking. The black, stout bill and deep red legs were conspicuous. In flight the black transverse band along the rump was a noticeable characteristic. The turnstone seemed very timid and the closest approach I could make was about 60 feet. The bird was evidently a molting adult, for the black on the breast and neck was broken by patches of grayish-white.

--- Marius Morse

A FALL TURNSTONE: On September 29, 1933, Walter Downey and I went to Frontenac to see what was there in the way of birds. One of the first birds we saw was a Ruddy Turnstone. It was in company with 11 Sanderlings, several Yellowlegs, and a Spotted Sandpiper.

The turnstone seemed very tame, and required urging to be flushed. The calico appearance of his back was very plain when flushed, but showed a dark and white arrangement rather than the tri-colored effect of spring.

--- Robert Upson

UNTANGLE THIS ONE: The evening of September 14th of this year found your humble president and editor on the dearly beloved wind washed sandy shores of the long point at Frontenac. Among several varieties of shore birds which we attempted to identify before the last descending shades of night might fall and carry them many miles to the southward ere the coming of the morn, we noticed two very light colored birds at the edge of the water which we thought were not the Sanderlings one usually sees there. We wondered if they were not Knots; so we did not hesitate to administer a charge of no. 8 shot thereto. One bird speedily left the line of scrimmage. The other fumbled but soon gathered himself together and started toward the goal carrying the ball; however, the ball, consisting of lead, was too heavy for him, and he fell with it after gaining some twenty yards. The visiting team was relatively slow, and it was not until your humble servant had shed his garments and entered the icy waters of Lake Pepin that the tackle was actually made. Yes, it was a Knot, and we apologetically take this space to tell you about it since as far as we know, it is the fifth sight record and second specimen of the Knot for Minnesota.

--- Alden Risser

300 WHITE PELICANS were seen at Hendricks on Oct. 4th.

--- Mrs. C. E. Peterson

PINE GROSBEAKS: On November 12th of this year a week-end expedition to Sturgeon Lake was rewarded during a hike around the lake through a raging sleetstorm blizzard by seeing a most unusually beautifully and brilliantly colored male Pine Grosbeak. Some of the party had seen two others in the top of a tamarack and were attempting to re-locate them while we found this bright individual unsuspectingly feeding upon high-bush cranberries.

The whole party was summoned to the scene. We stood first at some distance, and later within fifteen feet of it, admiring to our heart's content. We noticed the bird dropping parts of each berry and being curious, we investigated, finding the remains to be not the seed - as it was when we sampled the fruit - but the outer portion of the berry.

It was the first Pine Grosbeak I had seen, and I immediately pronounced the trip a success.

--- Donald Mahle.

A FEW MORE: I saw two more Pine Grosbeaks on November 18th, while walking to school, along a populated part of the Mississippi River bank, and judging from other recent reports, we seem to have an unusual number of them this winter.

--- Alden Rissor

SWALLOWS AND MORE SWALLOWS: At Lake Alexander (near Little Falls) on August 23rd, I had occasion to observe one of the largest flocks of swallows that I have ever seen. The Barn Swallow was the only swallow species absent, though I was not positive of my identification of a lone Rough-winged Swallow. I should estimate there were about 3,000 swallows within an area of 3/4ths an acre. The birds were flying about over the sandy beach of the lake, and perching in the small willows that bordered the water's edge. Many even alighted on the sand, remaining there for several moments at a time. Some were so tame as to be approached within five or six feet. As far as I could see, there were but very few martins. Bank and Tree Swallows comprised the bulk of the flock, and only one Cliff Swallow was to be seen.

--- Marius Morse.