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THE FLICKER

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Published in February, May, October and December  
by the

MINNESOTA BIRD CLUB

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At the regular meeting of the Minnesota Bird Club on December 14th, 1933, Dr. Thos. S. Roberts was present and gave us a very interesting talk reviewing the recent semi-centennial meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union in New York. Dr. Roberts has been affiliated with this organization since its first annual meeting, and is a fellow and member of the council of the Union. He gave a brief resume of the history and significance of the A. O. U., and closed with an account of the last annual meetings, in the course of which he reviewed the more interesting papers which had been presented at the meetings.

Plans were then laid for the outing to be held during Christmas vacation.

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The first meeting of the new year was held January 11th, and since there was much important business to be transacted no guest speaker had been invited. Marius Morse gave an account of the Sturgeon Lake trip during the vacation, for the benefit of those members who were not able to be present. After this the several members reported on their field trips.

The annual election of officers was next on the program, and the following members were elected: for President, Gustav Swanson was re-elected; for Vice-President, Charles Evans, to fill the place of Stanley Stein whose tragic death occurred less than a month earlier; for Secretary-Treasurer, Kenneth Carlander, to fill the place of Marius Morse; and for Editor, Ralph Woolsey, replacing Alden Risser.

Mr. Evans, who is a former secretary-treasurer, and well acquainted with the work and responsibility of that position, spoke in appreciation of the work which Mr. Morse has done for the last two years as our secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Swanson, a former editor, gave testimony to the great amount of work which Mr. Risser has performed so creditably in that position. Both of these retiring officers were given a hearty vote of thanks. It was decided that we wire Ralph Woolsey concerning his election as editor, and Charles Evans was commissioned to take care of this matter.

STANLEY STEIN

1911 - 1933

by Ralph Woolsey

Death has again stalked in our midst, leaving in its inexorable wake another place which can never be filled. While we were still feeling the loss of Donald Fischer, the tragic news of the passing of Stanley Stein, our vice-president, reached us. He was stricken of a sudden heart attack and died almost at once while returning home from a days' work at a nearby town.

Stan and Don were inseparable companions. When Stan was 14 years old he and Don started the Boy Scout movement at Shakopee, and through their enthusiastic leadership the present local troop came into being. Both later served as assistant scoutmasters, Stan having worked in that capacity for the past three years.

Although both the boys had shown an early interest in nature, particularly in bird life, it was their scout work that brought them intimately in touch with it. From then on they were confirmed and ardent bird-lovers, and upon the formation of the Minnesota Bird Club they were among the first enthusiastic members. Don was a past president of this organization, while Stan was its vice-president at the time of his death. Both were members of the Minneapolis Audubon Society and the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Stanley was born in Helena, Montana. His family moved to Delano, Minnesota, when he was four years old, and three years later they went to Shakopee, where they have remained ever since, and where Stan attended grade school and high school.

After his graduation from high school he entered the University of Minnesota to pursue a course in mechanical engineering. He completed a year at that institution, but was unable to resume his work there, although he later managed to take a six-months night school course in his chosen work. He was employed for some time on the staff of the county highway engineer at Shakopee. More recently, however, he was helping his father in plumbing and heating work, at which he was quite expert.

About the same time that Stan became interested in avian life he also developed a liking for photography, which later worked into a serious hobby, and perhaps nearly into his life's work. Starting with ordinary, inexpensive equipment, he studied and practiced his favorite avocation through his high school years, using birds as subjects for the most part, and having his successes and failures. Then he supplanted his first outfit with a much better one, and from that point on his technique constantly improved, until his finished work finally became well-nigh beyond reproach.

Being of a mechanical turn of mind, he devised many helpful contrivances to assist him in his photographic and bird studies. His traps which he used in banding work were excellently made, some being cleverly constructed ideas of his own. Together with a friend he designed a simple device for fastening a camera to any desired place on a tree in any desired position. This device is far superior to any other that I have seen or heard of. His well-known rope ladder played an important part in his photographic work, and many of us have had occasion to test its usefulness and convenience.

Stan's excellent photographs of birds had begun to make a reputation for themselves, and everyone who saw them commented on their fine quality. During the past year he had given several talks at sportsmen's and other clubs, illustrated by his own lantern slides. Ironically enough, the day that he died he was to have been notified of his appointment to a position with the educational division of the state Game and Fish Department, an assignment for which he had been working for some time.

He had not entirely confined his photographic ability to nature subjects, but had also done some work in the field of pictorial photography, which was well and artistically handled. The appreciation of beauty, line and color which is requisite in this particular type of work was not lacking in him.

Birds are considered one of two most difficult types of all camera subjects. To photograph them successfully, one must have infinite patience, as well as technical skill and, of course, a thorough knowledge of the habits of the species being photographed. I have known Stan to have sat in a small blind for eight hours at a time on several occasions, in an attempt to secure pictures of Great Horned Owls at the nest, not to mention many other instances illustrating his inexhaustible patience. Often such long waits are fruitless, and we know that it takes a real sportsman to be able to go home empty-handed, but fired with the desire to return and "make another go of it". As a photographer of birds, there can be little doubt that Stan was well on his way to the top.

In the fall of 1931 he started operation of a banding station at Shakopee, and carried this work through most of 1932, when he gradually abandoned it, finding that the routine application which was necessary interfered with his photographic and other activity. During the station's existence, however, he tended it most assiduously and derived a great deal of enjoyment from the banding experience. An article which he wrote for the February, 1933 issue of the FLICKER gives an interesting picture of how his station was conducted, from the birds banded to his campaign against cats, which latter were always anathema to him.

Thus far we have spoken only of Stan's interests and achievements, but to neglect any mention of his genial personality and splendid character would be to present a picture far from complete, for, like color added to a monochrome, his inimitable dry humor, invariable cheerfulness, and altruistic helpfulness add life and interest to our unfinished sketch; and knowing him better only makes us appreciate him more.

Informality was a part of him. He was almost invariably seen wearing old, comfortable clothes, a decrepit slouch hat, and a cheerful grin. The illustration, from one of his own photographs, portrays him thus in his natural, easy manner. Letters from him were filled with intimate friendliness and sparkling, humorous remarks. On camping trips he contributed much to the pleasure of the participants with his characteristic satirical wit and good cheer. Much of the success of these expeditions could also be attributed to the many practical and timely suggestions which he made, as well as to his indefatigable energy and enthusiasm.

That he was ambitious needs no comment. Idleness was foreign nature; he never squandered time. He was constantly planning work for himself, and it is significant to note that he usually accomplished that which he set out to do, always with results worthy of his best efforts.

While an attempt has been made to tell of some of Stan's accomplishments and to emphasize the sterling qualities of his personality and character, it is felt that even our best efforts would fall far short of their purpose, for only through having known him can we come to a just appreciation of so true a friend and companion. Words, the slaves of human expression, veritably melt into miserable nothingness as far as their value is concerned in adequately expressing the deep feelings of loss which his death brings to us.

Our remembrance of Stan will always be a pleasant one. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Surely, there could be no more beautiful or inspiring thought than the cherished memory of a happy, kind and helpful life.

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## THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BIRD CENSUS

by Ralph Woolsey

In spite of the untoward weather and frigid temperatures which prevailed during the greater part of the 1933-'34 Christmas vacation period, the inevitable enthusiasm of our members was scarcely dampened. Many of them were afield during that time (December 22nd to January 7th) and their records have been compiled to make up the composite list which follows.

A total of 58 species was observed in the 16 day period, which figure represents a creditable showing, even for a mild season. The localities range from Roseau, in the northwestern corner of the state, to Frontenac, in the southeast. Most of the records, however, were made in the eastern part of the state.

While there are many interesting records in the list, those of the Least Bittern, Canvas-back, Scoter, Willow Ptarmigan, and Great Gray Owl are outstanding. The Ptarmigan record is of especial note, since it constitutes the second authentic record of this species for the state. One of the birds was found dead near Salol on December 31st and was brought to Mr. P. O. Fryklund at Roseau, who identified it and sent it to the University Museum.

The observers who contributed the data which makes up the subjoined list are as follows: Mrs. E. D. Swedenborg, Donald Mahle, Mr. A. C. Rosenwinkel, Brother Hubert, Nester Hiemenz, and the entire personnel of the Sturgeon Lake trip, whose names will be enumerated elsewhere in this issue.

Annotations will be made only where they appear to be desirable.

### LEAST BITTERN

Injured bird seen near St. Paul, December 23rd (Hubert)

### MALLARD

95 near St. Paul (Hubert)

69 at Ft. Snelling-Long Meadow region. December 26th  
(Evans & Swanson)

Also reported from Hastings (Risser & Jones) and St. Cloud (Hiemenz)

### BLACK DUCK

Twin Cities (Risser)

### CANVAS-BACK

Hastings (Risser & Jones)

LESSER SCAUP

North Shore

GOLDEN-EYE

Duluth

4 at St. Cloud (Hiemenz)

250 at Hastings (Jones & Risser)

SCOTER

Seen at Duluth. (Exact species not ascertained)

AMERICAN MERGANSER

Hastings & Minneiska (Jones & Risser)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Hastings (Jones & Risser)

RED-TAILED HAWK

Twin Cities, Minneiska (Jones & Risser)

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

Twin Cities, Frontenac (Risser)

1 seen at Sandstone, December 29th

SPARROW HAWK

Although no birds of this species were seen during the specified time, we feel justified in including a record of one seen by Risser on January 12th. (Twin Cities)

RUFFED GROUSE

Common in many localities

WILLOW PTARMIGAN

1 at Salol, Roseau County, December 31st (Fryklund) Please see "Here & There" section for notes on this species)

PRAIRIE CHICKEN

Seen in several localities

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

4 at Sturgeon Lake

BOB-WHITE

Reported from several localities

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

WILSON'S SNIPE

Several localities

HERRING GULL

Seen at Duluth

SCREECH OWL

GREAT HORNED OWL

SNOWY OWL

Roseau, December 27th (Fryklund)

BARRED OWL

Ft. Snelling-Long Meadow region, December 26th (Evans & Swanson)

GREAT GRAY OWL

1 at Twin Cities (Risser) (Please see article in this issue by Mr. Risser)

SAW-WHET OWL

Hastings (Jones & Risser)

BELTED KINGFISHER

Two records from Twin Cities region

PILEATED WOODPECKER

Several records

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

Twin Cities (Risser)  
Frontenac (Jones & Risser)

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

1 seen near Twin Cities (Morse)

HAIRY WOODPECKER

DOWNY WOODPECKER

ARTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

Several seen near Duluth

HORNED LARK

200 seen near St. Cloud, January 3rd (Hiemenz)

BLUE JAY

MAGPIE

1 at Winnebago (Mahle). This is a single stray bird which has settled down at Winnebago. It is always seen in about the same place and has been around for over two years -- ed.)

CROW

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE

1 at St. Cloud (Hiemenz)

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

BROWN CREEPER

ROBIN

1 at Minneapolis, December 30th (Swedenborg)

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

2 near Minneapolis, January 6th (Swedenborg)

BOHEMIAN WAXWING

Seen at St. Paul (Hubert)

NORTHERN SHRIKE

Several localities

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Reported from several localities

RUSTY BLACKBIRD

Several records

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

St. Paul (Hubert)

BRONZED GRACKLE

Several localities

CARDINAL

Several

PURPLE FINCH

Seen at Dresbach (Jones & Risser)

PINE GROSBEAK

Reported from many localities. Seems to be fairly abundant this year.

REDPOLL

Several localities

GOLDFINCH

Several records

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO

Several localities

TREE SPARROW

Several localities in southern half of state.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR

Several localities

SNOW BUNTING

This was evidently a "Snowflake winter", for reports of their abundance were received from practically every locality the observers worked. Hiemenz reports 4 flocks seen south of St. Cloud on January 3rd which numbered approximately 400, 700, 1000, and 1000 birds each, respectively.

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AN ARCTIC VISITOR

by Alden Risser

On January 7th I was fortunate enough to observe some very peculiar actions of a very peculiar bird. I was walking along the edge of the north bank of the Minnesota River bottoms between Lyndale and Cedar Avenue, when I noticed two large owls flying a few rods in front of me; one of them flew away, and I no more of it. The other flew across my path and clumsily plunked itself down onto the snow, where it remained for 5 or 6 seconds, then flew several feet and again dropped into the snow.

It soon rose again, and this time lit on a branch of a tree about 15 feet up. It remained there while I studied it with my telescope for several seconds. Although it was only about 20 yards away, some branches obscured my view, so I very cautiously walked around the intervening bushes, taking a careful view with the telescope every few feet, lest it should be the last one, and was amazed to eventually find myself directly beneath the lazy-looking fowl, separated by a vertical distance of only ten feet.

Here I put the telescope away and studied his plumage as though he were in my hand, walking freely all around him to note both upperparts and underparts. The upperparts were patterned almost exactly like a Great Horned Owl; the underparts were whitish, heavily streaked longitudinally with blackish-gray, but with no bars on either breast or belly except a single large transverse white band under the throat, broken in the middle by a black dot. There was no suggestion of horns; the facial disc consisted of concentric rings of gray and whitish; both the irises and the bill wore yellow.

I thought it might be a Great Gray Owl, but I regret to say that my ornithological knowledge was at such a low ebb that, until I was able to refresh it and substitute it with Dr. Roberts' book, I put that thought aside on account of the brownish tinge of the upperparts, the lack of fluffiness of the feathers, and the scarcity of the bird in this part of the state. Therefore, having completed an examination of my first case of *Scotiaptex nebulosa*, I shook the branch on which he was perched. He nearly lost his balance, but a few wing beats restored his equilibrium. He remained on his perch, but for the first time he looked wide awake. In fact, he opened his small piercing yellow eyes and gave me such a vicious stare that I instinctively doubled up my fist preparatory to self-defense, should he elect a pugnacious descent onto my cranial protuberance. However, nothing happened, so I again shook the branch which bore the weight of his austere corporal being. This time he fell off, and indignantly flew to a nearby tree, where he chose a perch of somewhat greater altitude.

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## THE M. B. C. AT STURGEON LAKE

by Charles DuToit

This year the camp at Sturgeon Lake was selected for the annual Christmas trip, December 27th - 29th. Despite a temperature of 20 degrees below zero, most of those who had planned on going were on hand at the designated time, six o' clock Wednesday morning. The participants, Gustav Swanson, Marius Morse, Leander Fischer, Robert Upson, Charles DuToit, George Rysgaard, Malcolm Lewis, Alden Risser, Ralph Eisele, Axel Hansen, and William Webb, went in two cars and an Austin.

John Jones, Charles Evans, Sterling Brackett, James Moore, and Jules Geller were on hand part of Thursday with the rest of the group, after meeting us in Sturgeon Lake at five o' clock and continuing up toward Two Harbors.

On Wednesday we hiked about Sturgeon Lake and observed a total of fourteen species of birds, not including an unidentified hawk. Most of us were extremely delighted and interested in some Sharp-tailed Grouse and Prairie Chickens. At first we concluded that they were all Prairie Chickens, but we were pleasantly surprised to discover a few Sharp-tails among them. Two of the Sharp-tails were flushed from their snow tunnels, which were perfect even to the marks of the birds' wings and the air holes. The rest were perched in tree tops, evidently feeding off the pine cones. We came upon several groups of these treetop feeders in a walk through the open woods between the town of Sturgeon Lake and the lake.

Another thrill came when we discovered two Pine Grosbeaks in a field just behind the camp. They were tame enough to allow a person to approach within a few feet of them. Then they would fly, uttering a clear, pleasing whistle, which sounded strangely far away.

At night, after a hearty supper of good camp food, we were entertained by the melodious voices of Alden Risser and Ole Fischer, accompanied by Marius Morse banging on a hoarse piano, rendering the entire sixty-seven verses of "Frankie and Johnnie."

Thursday our early start for Duluth and points north was delayed by car trouble. When we finally reached a wooded section between Duluth and Two Harbors, we met the five other participants, who had had the good fortune of observing Scaup Ducks and a Scoter.

We returned to camp in an amiable mood, exhilarated by our discovery of several Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers, which were previously unknown to several members of the party. Bob Upson amused the camp with his voracious eating of soup, a mixture of several brands, filled crackers, corn, and potatoes afflicted with hardening of the arteries.

A total of 20 species were observed by the 16 participants in the two days, December 27th and 28th. One species, the American Rough-legged Hawk, was added on the return trip, on the 29th, making a total of 21 species for the expedition, as follows:

Scaup Duck (Lesser)	Hairy Woodpecker
Golden-eye	Downy Woodpecker
Scoter	Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker
Rough-legged Hawk	Blue Jay
Ruffed Grouse	Black-capped Chickadee
Prairie Chicken	White-breasted Nuthatch
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Northern Shrike
Ring-necked Pheasant	Pine Grosbeak
Herring Gull	Redpoll
Pileated Woodpecker	Slate-colored Junco
Snow Bunting	

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HERE AND THERE

SNOW BUNTINGS

On a bird trip made south of St. Cloud on January 3rd, Snow Buntings were seen in greater numbers than ever before. We saw 4 flocks of approximately 400, 700, 1000, and 1000 birds respectively. Among these birds were scattered Horned Larks. (Could they be Hoyt's Horned Lark?) In three flocks of Snow Buntings there were 100, 1, and 100 Horned Larks respectively. The other flocks of Snow Buntings had 3 Lapland Longspurs in their midst.

--- Nester Hiemanz

WINTER SPARROW HAWK

Since winter records of the Sparrow Hawk in Minnesota are not common it may be of interest to record one seen near Cedar Avenue, south of Minneapolis, on January 20th. This recalls the record of a single bird seen two years ago by the group participating in the Shakopee Christmas census December 27th, 1931.

--- Leander Fischer

LACK OF CROWS AT MADISON

Crows do not spend their days feeding about town as they have for many years. We miss their harsh call notes, which always filled the air each morning before sunrise. They have concentrated about the few cornfields that yielded a crop, and so the landscape, as seen at a distance at least, is void of bird life.

--- Mrs. C. E. Peterson

BALD EAGLES

A trip was made on January 20th to the Mississippi River just below Preston, the point at which the St. Croix River enters the Mississippi. The purpose of the trip was chiefly to see the many ducks which were reported to be there, and in this I was successful, seeing a great many American Mergansers and American Goldeneyes, distributed along the river for several miles. (Strnad: the town Preston should be Prescott)

More interesting than the ducks, however, were the Bald Eagles seen in the same area. About 8:30 in the morning I saw the first, but

flying so high that I hesitated to identify it. A little later another, and then still another were seen, all flying too high to be easily observed. Later on an adult with white head and tail appeared, this time low enough to be satisfactorily studied. After a short time it flew downstream and disappeared in the distance. A short time later three eagles flew into sight from behind the high bluff on the river bank at that point. One of these was an adult, the other two immature. It is barely possible, but not probable, that these two adults were the same. At any rate, there were at least three eagles in sight at one time.

The other birds seen the same day were not exceptionally interesting, but a flock of about 50 Snow Buntings was seen on the ice, a flock of about 25 Red-winged Blackbirds in a farmyard, and two Crows were the most noteworthy.

--- Charles Dufoit

WINTER NOTES FROM ROSEAU COUNTY

(The following notes are excerpts from a letter written to the editor on February 1st by Mr. P. O. Fryklund of Roseau, Minnesota. They contain many items of interest, and I am sure Mr. Fryklund will not object, I am taking the liberty of presenting them for the benefit of our readers.)

"It might be possible that you would see a Snowy Owl, as they are generally perched on top of some hay or straw stack in the day time, and yet I could count the number seen personally during my 39 years in Roseau County as being less than one dozen. Great Horned Owls are occasionally seen in the heavy timber, but are by no means numerous. This winter I have not received any Great Gray Owls, and in fact all Owls appear to be rather scarce, although we still have a fairly good number of Snow-shoe Rabbits and a lot of Jack Rabbits.

Although I have handled hundreds of owls and hawks every winter for the past eight years, excepting last winter and this season, it is very few that I have personally taken, most all the birds having been brought to me by trappers in the various parts of the county. Yesterday a trapper north of Roseau, now located on the International Boundary line, informed me that up to the present time he had caught in his mink and weasel traps only two Great Gray Owls. He also reported that hawks and owls were less numerous than usual, although he had seen a few Goshawks, besides the Great Gray already mentioned, and Great Horned Owls, which we always have more or less. In the early fall months usually a small migration of Arctic Horned Owls comes our way. Of these I got two, Subarcticus; one on October 19th and one on November 20th.

The Barred Owl is local, never numerous. Of this species I have four specimens in the meat; besides two Richardson's Owls, November 21st and November 27th; two Montana Horned Owls, January 20th and January 26th; five Screech Owls, one of which is in the red plumage; American Rough-legged Hawk, December 21st, one specimen; and five Snowy Owls. The first of the Snowy was received on December 27th, the rest being taken in January. I received one most excellent specimen of the Golden Eagle. It was shot by a farmer whom I found trying to clean up on a flock of Ring-necked Pheasants that had been feeding at his place during the winter.

You would be very likely to see Sharp-tailed Grouse, Hungarian Partridges, Ring-necked Pheasants, and an occasional Ruffed or Pinnated Grouse. The Sharp-tails are very plentiful.

A few Willow Ptarmigan have visited this district during the past two months. The first were seen on the large swamp north of Salol in the first part of December, and one was seen in the town of Laona, directly south of Muskeg Bay on Lake of the Woods. Three were reported seen last week in the old Roseau Lake district. On December 31st, James Burress of Salol picked up one dead Ptarmigan northwest of Salol and brought the bird to me as he wanted to know what it was. I surely was very much pleased to find that it was a Willow Ptarmigan, and the second authentic record for Minnesota. The first was shot by Charles Springsteel at Springsteel's Point, on the lake shore north of Warroad. The Ptarmigan which I received was sent to Dr. Roberts.

THE CHIPPING SPARROW THAT RAISED ROBINS

The Chipping Sparrow picked the shabbiest pine tree in the yard for her nest. Thus, she had very little protection, and could be watched very easily. On the first of June I noticed four eggs in the little nest; two Chipping Sparrow eggs and two Robin eggs. And in the garden a battle was on between the two birds as to who was to have the nest. The next day I found the Sparrow on the nest, her mate close by. The Robins were still near at hand in the garden, but in a few days they disappeared.

About the middle of June the four eggs hatched, all on the same night. In a few days the nest was too small for the four birds and the Robins, who were larger, soon worked the sparrows out of their home and they were killed. The Robins grew so rapidly that they soon pushed through the bottom of the nest and in order to help them I built it up with rags and sticks. By the time they were ready to leave the nest, in two weeks, they were nesting in rags, as none of the original nest was left.

Their daily feedings were very interesting because they never seemed to get enough to eat, and were always crying for more. The young Robins were larger than their foster-parents the day they left their nest, but were taught to fly away. The Chipping Sparrows must surely have wondered at their large "offspring".

--- Carrie Husebs, Novis, Minn.

BOOK NOTES

by Gustav Swanson

FIFTY YEARS' PROGRESS OF AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY, 1883 - 1933

This volume was issued by the American Ornithologists' Union in connection with its semi-centennial celebration last fall, and is designed to present briefly the development of ornithology during the years of existence of the Union. Each chapter is written by a recognized authority in that particular field, and the phases of ornithology taken up are obvious from the chapter headings, which are as follows: A Brief History of the A. O. U.; American Ornithological Literature; Fifty Years of Bird Migration; Bird Banding; The Theory of Territorialism; Advances in Life History Work; Economic Ornithology; The Collections of Birds in the U. S. and Canada; Bird Photography in America; Fifty Years Progress in Bird Art; Fifty Years of Bird Protection; Ornithological Education; The Fossil Birds. These chapter contents should indicate that anyone broadly interested in birds cannot but find the volume well worth purchasing. It may be obtained for \$1.00 from W. L. McAtee, 200 Cedar Street, Cherrydale, Va.

TRAVELING WITH THE BIRDS, by Rudverd Boulton

This book, by a member of the Field Museum staff, is one of the finest bird books for children which has ever appeared, and we can recommend it heartily. It owes much of its charm to the beautiful colored plates by Walter Weber, of which there are twelve. The page size is large quarto, and since the colored plates extend way to the margin of the page as did the colored plates in Forbush's, "Birds of Massachusetts", the size of the picture itself

is in each case a great deal larger than in any of the recent illustrated bird books. Mr. Weber has outdone himself in the execution of these beautiful paintings, which are the more attractive because it was not necessary here to crowd them with many birds, as is usually the case.

The text is written for children, and should do much to instill an interest in the out-of-doors, especially in the fascinating subject of bird migrations. It is an ideal gift for the child. M. A. Donohue & Co., publishers, Chicago. Price, \$1.50

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Because of negligence on the part of the editor, we are unable to state who will compile the nest records for 1934 at this time. It will be satisfactory, however, to send all such records and lists to him, and he will see that they reach the hands of whoever is delegated to this work. All members are urged to send their lists, accompanied by any pertinent notes, not later than August 31st. And, of course, all other articles and notes are solicited and will be gratefully received.

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The attention of readers is called to the announcement appearing on another page of this issue, and asking for cooperation in the collecting of cowbird's eggs this nesting season. Members and friends are urged to aid Dr. Hutt in this problem.

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The regular meeting of the Minnesota Bird Club was held February 8th in the University Museum. Dr. Ralph W. Dawson of the Department of Zoology, University of Minnesota, spoke on an angle of the economic importance of birds which we do not usually consider. He pointed out that although the birds which are examined during the height of an insect outbreak may contain enormous numbers of insects, and may thus seem to be very valuable insect enemies indeed, still they are doing their real good when they destroy relatively few insects at a time when the insects are rare. At this point even a few insects killed are important, as they are prevented from breeding, and the increase in numbers is mitigated, thus postponing the outbreak, during which the insects are most harmful.

The March meeting was postponed one week, being held at 8 P.M. on March 15th. Mr. Charles Evans presided in the absence of the president. The speaker of the evening was Mr. Dietrich Lange, well-known St. Paul naturalist, who gave an interesting account of his experiences on Isle Royale over a long period of years. He spoke about the bird and mammal life of the island, dwelling especially on the habits of the moose, who are so abundant there.

At the regular monthly meeting held April 12th, Dr. F. B. Hutt, Professor of Animal Genetics, University Agricultural College, was the speaker. He gave a very entertaining talk on the parasitic habits of the European cuckoo and outlined an interesting problem on the habits of the cowbird which he wishes to study.

In pursuing this problem Dr. Hutt will need a large number of cowbird eggs from a variety of nests and localities, and he appealed to the members of the Minnesota Bird Club to aid him in collecting these eggs. All members are urged to save the cowbird eggs which they find during the present nesting season, taking especial care to properly identify the nests from which they are taken. Date and locality data should also be noted. These eggs should either be brought to Mr. Kilgore or Mr. Swanson at the University Zoology Building, or they should be mailed directly to Dr. F. B. Hutt, University Farm, St. Paul. It is hoped that all of the members will cooperate with Dr. Hutt in this way.

Dr. Hutt's talk was followed by a demonstration of the phonograph records of bird songs which Mr. Albert Brand of the American Museum of Natural History has prepared. These records were loaned through the kindness of Dr. T. S. Roberts. A review of Mr. Brand's book, and of the records, appears elsewhere in this issue.

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AT HOME WITH THE BIG BLUE DARTER

by Marius Morse

It had started to snow - a light, fine, wet snow - as Bill and I tramped along the narrow trail leading through the dense hazel of a large jack pine forest. Our destination was not far ahead - a thick stand of jack pines, wherein the large nest we had discovered two weeks before was located. We had suspected that this nest was a newly-built structure, for the coarse twigs, of which the nest was chiefly built, appeared to have been recently broken. Besides this, we had noted several jack pine twigs, bearing green leaves, adorning the nest, which was an extraordinarily big thing, about two feet in diameter at the top and 18 inches thick. It was only very slightly cupped, and was placed some 25 feet above the ground, close to the trunk, in a 50-foot jack pine.

As we drew nearer to the nest location, we "cut our chatter short", and peered carefully between the branches and foliage of the trees which separated us from the nest tree, in an effort to sight the nest - possibly (we thought) - a sitting Great Horned Owl.

We stopped about 150 feet from the nest and focussed our binoculars upon the bulky structure. Above its outlines a head stood out - a large head of a hawk. We advanced slowly and could soon make out a large tail protruding over the nest's edge.

The hawk held fast to its position as we came closer, so Bill walked to the tree and kicked it several times, while I stood at a distance of about 30 feet to watch closely what would happen. The incubating bird flushed and flew swiftly, gracefully, off through the dense jack pine foliage, uttering harsh, piercing squawks as it winged to a big dead limb of a jack pine not far away. There it alighted in plain view, still screaming fiercely. I breathed a little easier and walked toward the bird. It was a large hawk, streaked below and on the head, having a distinct buff and brown wing pattern and rather wide horizontal bars on the underside of the tail. It later turned out that this hawk was a first-year bird, not yet having acquired the characteristic adult plumage.

But my observations were interrupted, for suddenly the mate, screaming viciously, and coming from somewhere nearby in the dense woods, flew directly toward me, veering to one side when about 25 feet away. I stood with mouth wide open, but had observed that he was distinctly different from the incubating hawk and was bluish-gray over the upperparts and light colored beneath. Could it be -- yes, it was -- a Goshawk, without doubt.

We climbed the tree to the next and found 3 eggs, two light bluish-white, and the third plain white, lying on a nest lining of pine bark chips. What a treat and what a rare surprise! We left with that feeling of a "real thrill" that comes from having made an unusual discovery and long-to-be-remembered sight record.

-- Cloquet, Minn.

A TEAL IN STRANGE COMPANY

by Sterling Brackett

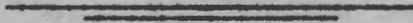
We marvel at the perfect formation of a noisy flock of geese flying high overhead, at the military executions of the graceful curves and banks and glides of a flock of white pelicans, or at the careless ease with which each individual in a flock of shore birds duplicates the movements of the others. Often, after one has beheld breathlessly the passing of a flock of birds, he can not help but feel that there must be some sort of a "flock spirit" or, more ambiguously, a central nervous system that unifies the movements of each individual of the group. If there is such a thing we have to prove it, but an observer always feels that it must exist.

Usually the flocks we see consist of only one species, such as mallards, common terns, or tree swallows, or of closely related species, such as mixed flocks of ducks, shorebirds, or swallows. In these cases the birds work well as a group, but I often have wondered if flocks of mixed species of less close relation would work together.

A blue-winged teal, a few days ago, showed something that was very interesting and suggestive along this line. I was sitting on a scaffolding from where I could look out over the marshes of the Minnesota River bottoms at the Long Meadow Gun Club. With field glasses I could follow flocks of ducks as they passed above the marsh and observe the effects of the hunting upon them. A small flock of teal flew over a rather active stand and all but one were "dropped". The remaining one was either slightly hit or very much confused and in its wild escape it joined a flock of yellow-legs that happened to pass just then.

For about two miles of its flight, around the marsh I could make out the individual movements of the members of the flock. The sandpipers kept perfect pace in all their zigzag curves and turns, but the teal was always out of line of these sudden changes—like the person on the end of the line in a game of "crack the whip". In the distance the teal was indistinguishable from its slightly smaller flock mates in appearance, but could always be identified as it lagged in all the maneuvers. This could not have been because of clumsiness in flight, for it is well known, especially among hunters, that teal are one of the cleverest of fliers.

Minneapolis, Minn.



THE PUNISHMENT OF *Passer domesticus*

by Ralph Woolsey

Perhaps the foregoing title resembles a caption in a detective magazine; but I am about to describe a bloodthirsty crime, and the subsequent efficient chastisement of the perpetrator, which seems altogether fitting and proper. Here, then, are the gruesome details:

Not long since, I was strolling along a railroad track, one side of which was flanked by a ditch that was always kept full of waste water from a nearby roundhouse. In the reeds which grew in and about the aforesaid ditch, a number of Red-winged Blackbirds had chosen to make their homes. They were quite tame, so I seated myself about twenty feet from one of the nests and proceeded to observe the actions of its owners. Nothing unusual happened for fifteen or twenty minutes. Finally the female, who was incubating left the nest and flew some little distance away for an unknown reason of her own.

The moment she had gone, my attention was attracted by one of the numerous English Sparrows who inhabited the smoky beams of an adjacent viaduct. With a diabolical chirp, he flew to the recently vacated nest and proceeded with maniacal delight to viciously do to death four innocent and quite helpless embryos. His grisly end accomplished, the fiend then sought to make his getaway ere the foul deed was detected.

Unfortunately for him, however, the owners of the home so rudely violated had returned just in time to see the murderer of their unborn progeny put the finishing touches to his nefarious act. Together, they swooped at him with such effectiveness that his retreat was cut off, and he was forced down into the water. The two irate Blackbirds then proceeded to hover close above him, where they took turns at ducking the squealing, terrified fellow, using their feet to immerse him.

By this time the homicide squad, consisting of four-and-twenty (or more) blackbirds, having in some manner been apprised of the ghastly crime, arrived to investigate. Quickly satisfied that the gruesome evidence would uphold the action, they joined the punitive force and were of great assistance in dramatically pointing out to the now wretched sparrow that he was "all wet" in trying to get away with the felony he had committed.

The baptismal rites were conducted for about ten minutes, at the end of which time the culprit was so weak that he could scarcely move. His captors then decided that he had been taught enough in one lesson, and finally left him feebly fluttering in the water, his criminal ardor greatly cooled, and his usual arrogance totally lacking. At length the bedraggled bird regained sufficient strength to make an ignominious exit from the scene of his disgrace, weakly winging his way to the nearby haven under the viaduct, his black heart probably still frozen with terror too great to comprehend.

HERE AND THERE

RICHARDSON(S OWL AT ST. PETER

Shortly before last Thanksgiving Day, Mr. William Wilber captured a Richardson's Owl near St. Peter. It was perched on some boxes near his cabin in the woods, and as he approached it he noticed that the owl's interest was focussed on his feet. Taking advantage of this fact, he cautiously reached forward and caught the unsuspecting bird, which is now a specimen in the University Museum collection. According to Dr. Roberts' book, there are two other records for this southern part of the state: Lanesboro, January 19, 1885, Hvoslef; and Renville County, C. T. Cooke.

Charles Evans  
Minneapolis, Minn.

SCREECH OWL NOTES

I am prompted to mention a Screech Owl that I saw this evening, walking down Summit Avenue on my way home from school. It was quite dark, and I noticed the owl silhouetted against the sky. He was perched about 15 feet above my head, and while I stood looking at him, he stretched his neck slightly and uttered a low, soft series of notes, all of the same pitch and intensity, whose resonance was suggestive of the "tatooing" of a woodpecker, but lacking the sharp notes of the latter sound. It was very faint, and could not have been heard from any considerable distance.

— Alden Risser  
St. Paul, Minn.

HOODED MERGANSER NESTING NEAR HASTINGS

On February 22, 1934, my father, James Maeck, Edward Marshal, and I were hiking through the woods bordering the Mississippi River a few miles below Hastings, enjoying the exceptional opportunity to watch the hundreds of stately American Mergansers as well as scattered flocks of Golden-eyes that have wintered there this year. About half a mile below Prescott we came upon two men cutting a tree they had recently felled. On the ground we noticed some owl-like eggs. We counted fourteen, but the men said that there had been sixteen, and showed us the cavity near the top of the tree from which they had come. It looked like an ideal place for the nest of a Great Horned or Barred Owl, but we could not understand how there could be so many eggs if they had been laid by one of those birds.

As the eggs were all frozen and many of them unbroken, we collected them. On checking up their measurements we found them to be just right for a Barred Owl and in every way like the egg of that bird except for the texture, which was a little too glossy. They were not at all the shape of most duck eggs, but just to be sure, the measurements of eggs of all tree nesting ducks were looked up, and it was found that the Hooded Merganser has an egg of this size and shape. Moreover, its texture is

glossy, unlike an owl's egg. Its usual clutch numbers 10 to 12 eggs; but there seemed to be no other possibility, so we concluded that this must have been a deserted set of Hooded Merganser's eggs.

After blowing a number of the, it was easy to believe that they were at least a year old.

Charles Evans  
Minneapolis, Minn.

#### SURF SCOTER NEAR ST. PAUL

A female Surf Scoter has apparently spent the winter on a small patch of water kept open by two artesian wells which supply water to White Veark Lake (Ramsey County). The bird was seen there on February 11th and 12th by Milton Soren, John O'Leary, Donald Mahle, and the writer. It was alone on two occasions, but the first two observers mentioned above saw six scaups with it on one occasion. At this time the scaups flew away, and the Scoter tried to accompany them, but it could only get a foot or two above the water, and dropped down in. Local residents stated that seven ducks had spent the winter there.

Although the Surf Scoter is seen fairly regularly on Lake Superior there are only a few records for other parts of the state, and no winter records in Dr. Roberts', "Birds of Minnesota".

Alden Risser  
St. Paul, Minn.

#### NIGHT FLIGHT

Migration has been exceptionally slow this spring in the Red River Valley, and up to the first of May many species which ordinarily are seen in the middle of April had not put in an appearance. Unfavorable weather conditions with which everyone is familiar were and are no doubt largely responsible for this.

Thursday, May 3rd was a hot, sultry day, following on the heels of several torrid others. Toward evening everything became quiet and most pleasantly cool, and by dark a fine mist filled the upper air. About nine o' clock birds were heard overhead as they pressed northward, and by ten o' clock the air was filled with a medley of twitters, chirps, songs and croaks that bid fair to discourage the most ambitious analyst, so confusingly were the sounds blended. The birds seemed to be trying to make up for lost time, and were flying quite low (perhaps 150 to 300 feet) on account of the "low ceiling". At three o' clock in the morning the great chorus was still to be heard, filling the quiet of the early hours with music that seemed of almost incomprehensible magnitude, but which twinkled, fairylike, sometimes faint and far away.

No one could estimate the numbers of migrants who pushed on to their summer homes in the north that night, but I was gratified to find the next day that some had stopped to cheer my back yard with their song and presence for a while.

Ralph Woolsey  
Fargo, N. Dak.

A CHICKADEE LENDS CHARM

Lincoln's birthday found four enthusiastic hikers on the beautifully wooded bank of the St. Croix, just above Stillwater. Contentedly lunching and basking in the sun, we drew a solitary but friendly little chickadee into our midst by calling to him in his own language. He quickly accepted our invitation to dine with us, and in a minute he was busy biting into a doughnut in Milt Sorem's hand. A few crumbs sufficed, and he was soon off to resume his search for more delectable morsels among the branches of maple and linden. Before departing, however, he flitted actively among us, on one occasion lighting on my outstretched arm and seeming to graciously express his appreciation of our good intentions, but at the same time conveying the impression that we could have our doughnuts.

--- Alden Risser  
St. Paul, Minn.

BOOK NOTES

by G. Swanson

SONGS OF WILD BIRDS -- by Albert R. Brand. 1934. Thomas Nelson & Sons, Publishers, New York City, Price \$2.00.

This interesting book has for its purpose the introducing of two phonograph records of bird songs which Mr. Brand by dint of much patience and hard work has been able to record from life. We have all heard records of bird songs, but all of these have thus far been recording merely of whistled imitations of the songs. Mr. Brand has actually taken his complete recording apparatus into the field on a truck, has located his singing bird, then carried the microphone to within a reasonable distance of the bird, and has gone about to secure on a celluloid film such as is used in the talking pictures, the recording of the bird songs. The story of how this has been accomplished, including the accounts of the many difficulties encountered, is an interesting one, well worth the price of the book.

With the book, however (and at no extra cost), one receives two records which include the songs and calls of 35 birds. Mr. Brand has other records of additional songs in preparation. The advantages to the bird lover of having such records of songs are many. Everyone, we suppose, forgets some songs during the winter months when the birds are not with us. The time wasted each spring in relearning these songs can be obviated if one can play such records as these from time to time, familiarizing himself with the songs before the birds arrive. Then there is the difficulty of knowing just how a song sounds from being told merely that a Song Sparrow, for example, says, "Old maids, get your teakettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle", as one writer has it. To most of us these syllable-ized bird songs mean little. It takes the actual song to give us any adequate conception of the sound. Certainly the work, or play, if you will, of the bird student is greatly assisted if he can learn bird songs at home in his room.

Unfortunately, there are a few songs on the two records mentioned which are not especially successful. The process is yet in its infancy, so to speak, and is becoming more satisfactory with time. However, the majority of the songs are fine, and the book and records will, we are sure, prove a great aid to their users. The songs of the five thrushes were especially fine, we thought. Those few songs which are weak, and very high in pitch, such as the Chestnut-sided and Yellow Warblers, Wood Pewee, and one or two others, were not satisfactory as we heard them. Perhaps they would be better if heard played on a finer phonograph.

BIRD SONG -- by Aretas A. Saunders. New York State Museum Handbook 7. 1929. Published by New York State Museum, University of the State of New York, Albany, N.Y.

This little book, published several years ago, may well be noticed together with the preceding one reviewed, as it will be found very useful to the serious student of bird songs. It is not a book which will enable the reader to identify birds by their songs, but rather a treatment of the problem of bird songs from a broadly biological viewpoint. Here, for instance, one may become familiar with the theories to account for songs. Perhaps a simple enumeration of some of the chapter headings will give the most adequate idea of the scope of this book: "Definition of Bird Song", "The Seasonal Cycle", "Song in Relation To Weather", "Acquirement of Song by the Young", "Comparison of Bird Song and Human Music", "Purposes of Bird Song", "Origin and Evolution of Bird Song", "How To Study Bird Song." From these chapter headings it is evident that there is much in the book which will interest the serious bird student.

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THE FLICKER

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by the

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Due to the limited amount of time at the editor's disposal, difficulty was experienced in attempting to arrange properly the contents of this issue, and this is offered as a partial excuse for the unseemly tardiness in publication. The above-mentioned person's habitual laziness should not be overlooked as a contributory factor toward the late appearance of the present number, however, and he wishes hereby to bewail publicly his possession of this unfortunate trait. It is hoped, though, that the wealth of nidological data contained herein will in part offset the aforementioned disadvantage. Compiler Charles Evans has done himself no little credit in recording the Club's 1934 nest-finding activities in Systematic form, and your perusal of his work, which comprises most of this issue, will readily bear out the truth of this statement.

The tremendous amount of laborious detail concomitant to making a compilation of the present nature can only be appreciated by one who has been lost in its labyrinthian entanglements, and we therefore hasten to opine that Mr. Evans has found his way out of the maze remarkably well. We further note, with no small amount of satisfaction, that he found time here and there to inject a few drops of humor and personality, and for this he need make no apology. Far from detracting from its scientific value, we feel that these things, by virtue of their diverting and refreshing informality, make a paper of this nature more interesting and render the assimilation of its contents less tedious.

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At the first autumn meeting of the Minnesota Bird Club, October 11, 1934, several members who had done considerable field work during the summer related their experiences and told of their more interesting bird finds.

Mr. E. D. Swedenborg and Dr. C. C. Prosser told about a week's birding trip near Grand Portage in June, a trip on which they found the nests of several very interesting birds, including Grinnell's Waterthrush, Purple Finch, Junco, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and some others.

John Dobie told about a trip which he and Horace Paul made to the Lake of the Woods area, where they studied and photographed the nesting Piping Plover, Common Terns, Double-crested Cormorants, and Herring Gulls, among others. Mr. Dobie exhibited many of the beautiful photographs which he had taken on this trip.

Other trips were described by Charles DuToit and Robert Upson, Marius Morse, and Alden Risser, all of whom had been in distant parts of Minnesota. Kenneth Carlander told something about the birds he saw during his interesting summer again in Texas, and William Webb gave a short account of a few birds seen in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

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FUN AT FRONTENAC

by Kenneth Carlander

The sun had just peeped over the opposite bank of the lake, and its rays were reflected at various angles from the surface of the water slightly ruffled by a cool breeze. Seven of us stood in the water near the shore, observing intently the birds on a small sand flat. We were watching particularly two big fellows walking among the small Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. They were heavy, mottled brown birds with long slightly up-turned bills--Hudsonian Godwits. They walked along slowly, often dipping their beaks into the water to pick up some delicious morsel. Then, suddenly startled, they rose and flew down the shore, their white rumps making sharp contrast with their dark backs and tails.

At the same time all the smaller shore birds rose as one, peeping and whistling; wheeled twice around the island, and settled down again. We turned our attention to them. Most of them were Pectoral, Semipalmated, and Least Sandpipers but we soon picked out the black throat and red back of a Turnstone on one end of the flat. Farther in on the island was a flock of Semipalmated Plovers, appearing very small in comparison to a couple of Killdeers. Next we picked out a group of beautiful phalaropes, equally graceful while swimming in the water or walking on the shore. Most of them were the more common Wilson's Phalarope, but we identified one smaller, lighter colored, Northern Phalarope in their company. Then a long-legged Greater Yellow-legs and a group of Lesser Yellow-legs walked through their midst. Several Red-backed Sandpipers, a Sanderling, and a couple of White-rumped Sandpipers were also identified in the flock of birds running about on the island. A whistle over our heads made us look to see three Black-bellied Plovers swoop down and take their place among the lesser birds. They were trully magnificent with their black bellies and lighter, mottled backs. They stood out as the kings of the shore.

We (Chuck Evans, Don Mahle, Alden Risser, Charles DuToit, Bob Upson, Mr. Carlander, and the writer) were down on the shore of Lake Pepin at Frontenac, on May 20th, at the height of the migration season. Half of the bunch had come down the day before and had seen, among other birds, a Golden-winged Warbler, a Turkey Vulture, a Mourning Warbler, and some Caspian Terns; but we all agreed that the scene described above was one of the best in the history of our bird study.

After we had studied these birds for some time, we started for the woods lying back from the shore. In the grassy fields on our way thither, we found several Nelson's Sparrows that looked very much like gophers with their striped

backs, as they crept through the grass. Then we divided into smaller parties to look for birds in the woods. Several hours later we met with a list which included Red-shouldered Hawks, a Duck Hawk, Pileated Woodpeckers, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and a Lincoln's Sparrow; and--best of all--a Piping Plover found on the long point. Before we left, every one of us saw this beautiful pale little bird at a distance of a few feet while it ran over the white pebbles. We then determined to discover a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher that we were told was there. It too was seen, but only for a moment among the leaves of some tall trees.

Deciding to make this the biggest day yet for all those present, we left in the afternoon for Hyland Lake and the Bass Pond, stopping on the way near Hastings to see the Starlings which were nesting in a church. The day was finally topped off by stopping at Fort Snelling to listen to the courting of the Woodcock as it flew, whistling, into the sky at twilight.

The day's list for Frontenac and the Bass Pond (little was seen at Hyland Lake) included the 139 species given below (the list also includes those seen the previous day):

Pied-billed Grebe	Wilson's Snipe
Double-crested Cormorant	Spotted Sandpiper
Great Blue Heron	Solitary Sandpiper
Green Heron	Piping Plover
Black-crowned Night Heron	Greater Yellow-legs
American Bittern	Lesser Yellow-legs
Least Bittern	Pectoral Sandpiper
Mallard	White-rumped Sandpiper
Black Duck	Least Sandpiper
American Pintail	Red-backed Sandpiper
Blue-winged Teal	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Shoveler	Hudsonian Godwit
Lesser Scaup Duck	Sanderling
Turkey Vulture	Wilson's Phalarope
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Phalarope
Cooper's Hawk	Herring Gull
Red-shouldered Hawk	Ring-billed Gull
Marsh Hawk	Common Tern
Duck Hawk	Caspian Tern
Ring-necked Pheasant	Black Tern
Virginia Rail	Mourning Dove
Sora	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Florida Gallinule	Black-billed Cuckoo
Coot	Barred Owl
Semipalmated Plover	Nighthawk
Killdeer	Chimney Swift
Black-bellied Plover	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Ruddy Turnstone	Belted Kingfisher
Woodcock	Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker	Warbling Vireo
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Golden-winged Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Blackburnian Warbler
Downy Woodpecker	Black-poll Warbler
Kingbird	Oven-bird
Crested Flycatcher	Grinnell's Water-Thrush
Phoebe	Louisiana Water-Thrush
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Mourning Warbler
Alder Flycatcher	Northern Yellow-throat
Least Flycatcher	Wilson's Warbler
Wood Pewee	Canada Warbler
Horned Lark	Redstart
Tree Swallow	English Sparrow
Bank Swallow	Bobolink
Rough-winged Swallow	Eastern Meadowlark
Barn Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Cliff Swallow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Purple Martin	Red-winged Blackbird
Blue Jay	Baltimore Oriole
Crow	Brewer's Blackbird
Black-capped Chickadee	Bronzed Grackle
White-breasted Nuthatch	Cowbird
House Wren	Scarlet Tanager
Prairie Marsh Wren	Cardinal
Short-billed Marsh Wren	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Catbird	Indigo Bunting
Brown Thrasher	Goldfinch
Robin	Red-eyed Towhee
Olive-backed Thrush	Savannah Sparrow
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Grasshopper Sparrow
Willow Thrush	Nelson's Sparrow
Bluebird	Vesper Sparrow
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Lark Sparrow
Cedar Waxwing	Chipping Sparrow
Migrant Shrike	Clay-colored Sparrow
Starling	Field Sparrow
Yellow-throated Vireo	Lincoln's Sparrow
Red-eyed Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow	

--- Minneapolis, Minnesota

THE 1934 NESTING SEASON

Compiled by Chas. Evans

Following the precedent set by various members of the Bird Club since 1929, an attempt has been made in the following pages to condense the most important nesting data acquired by members of the organization in their forays hither and yon through the prairies, marshes and forests of our state during the past season.

Reports of 23 observers were received and to each of these co-operators not only the writer but also all who in the future make use of this data are deeply indebted. Their names appear with the individual records and are given in full the first time only. The original reports will be placed on file in the Museum of Natural History of the University of Minnesota, where any who wish to investigate the wealth of information contained in them can do so at any time in the future.

A total of 146 species are included in this year's report. Of these, 130 represent records of actual nests found, the largest list of any year thus far. This year's work is, however, not only fruitful in number of species but also in the quality of reports. Records of the first nests ever found in the state for two species, Cerulean Warbler and Grinnell's Water-Thrush, are included. No nests of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher have been reported since 1895, according to Dr. Roberts in the, "Birds of Minnesota", but Hiemenz and Hanson found the bird nesting at St. Cloud this year, considerably north of where it has been expected to breed. Two nests of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, as well as one occupied and two unoccupied nests of the Olive-backed Thrush add considerably to the report. Records for Krider's Hawk, Sandhill Crane, King Rail, Piping Plover will be of exceptional interest to Minnesota bird-chasers.

Only Minnesota records of occupied nests are included, except where there is only one or no other record for the species, or where a record is of exceptional interest. When no locality is given, the record is for the Twin-City area (including Fort Snelling).

If, in perusing the following pages, the reader should find anything not essential to a concise, scientific report, the writer begs his forgiveness, for in organizing and condensing such a mass of data as was reported, one now and then becomes somewhat weary. At such times the compiler's mind is prone to wander, and with resistance at a low ebb (in spite of the best of intentions), his pencil is likely to scribble almost anything before it is brought under control.

LOON!

The first nest of this clarion-voiced fisherman of our northern lakes was found by Jack Hanson and Nester Hiemenz on May 13th near St. Cloud, Stearns County. It was occupied by an incubating bird. Our worthy editor, Ralph Woolsey, found the latest nest of this species near Vergas Ottertail County, on the 3rd of June, when it held 2 eggs.

PIED-BILLED GREBE

The only nest of this species with eggs was reported by Hanson from Lake Winnibigoshish. It contained 5 eggs on the 19th of June. Four days later, at the same place, he found young about a week old.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

Nests of this snake-necked fisherman were reported from one locality, Gull Rock, on Lake of the Woods. On May 19th, P. O. Fryklund counted 140 nests with eggs varying in number from one to six, but averaging 3 or 4. Of a few eggs collected, all were fresh. One month later, on the 19th of June, John Dobie's ornithological zeal brought him to this same colony, where he found 130 nests containing from 1 to 5 eggs or young.

GREAT BLUE HERON

Four colonies were reported. The first, visited by Hanson and Hiemenz, was located along the Sauk River, 2 miles west of Rockville, Stearns County. On April 8th it was found to be undergoing repairs, the nests being rebuilt. A nest was investigated and found to be empty. On April 22nd one nest held 3 eggs and birds were on most of the other nests; however, these observers report, "This colony seemed much smaller than it was last year, probably only about 40 pairs nesting." Another colony was visited by Hiemenz, who writes, "On April 9th, the birds were building and the nests seemed almost complete. They were all new structures, as the farmer living nearby said that all the old trees with nests had been felled during the winter, having been dead. There were possibly 75 pairs nesting." The third colony, located near Barnesville, Ottertail County, was visited on May 17th, and consisted of about 80 nests, most of which were probably empty. Of about 10 nests investigated, one or two had 2 or 3 eggs, according to Woolsey, who visited the colony. The latest rookery reported was seen by Marius Morse and his friend Feeney, on August 1st at Itasca Park. The nests, numbering "probably over 100", were perched in the tops of some 80-foot Norway Pines. At this time all but 2 or 3 were vacant. Nearly full-grown young were seen in two of the nests.

GREEN HERON

Hanson and Hiemenz located two nests of the Green Heron. The first was found on May 27th near Fair Haven, Stearns County, and contained 3 fresh eggs. The second, near St. Cloud, was empty on May 31st, and broken eggs lay on the ground, mute evidence of some tragedy that had befallen the home-makers so early in the spring. With Spartan courage

they faced the disaster, however, and on June 17th 3 fresh eggs nestled among the twigs of their little home. Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Swedenborg reports young out of the nest but unable to fly, near Shakopee, Scott County, on July 8th.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

On May 19th Hiemenz visited the colony at Hutchinson, McLeon County, with Mr. Encin. About 60 pairs of herons were present, most of them rebuilding nests. One nest, however, held one fresh egg. Dr. Clare C. Prosser reports 2 nests found near Montrose, Stearns County, on August 9th. There were 6 or 7 adults and young in the tree-tops nearby.

AMERICAN BITTERN

There are no records for the "Thunder-pumper" except that of a bird flushed from a completed but empty nest at Grand Lake by Hiemenz on June 16th.

EASTERN LEAST BITTERN

On May 25th, at Little Rock Lake, Morrison County, Hiemenz found a nest of this slender, silent marsh-dweller, containing 3 fresh eggs. On the 7th of June the same observer and his sharp-eyed and diligent co-worker, Jack Hanson, visited the same lake and found another nest of this species with the same number of fresh eggs.

COMMON MALLARD

Although a number of observers reported seeing broods of young Mallards, the only nest with eggs was reported by Alden Risser and Geo. Rysgaard, who found it on June 3rd. The contents were 13 eggs, 2 of which were hatching.

GADWALL

Robert Upson and Charles DuToit found four large young accompanying adults of this species on June 22nd at Goose Lake, Polk County.

AMERICAN PINTAIL

The only report for this graceful puddle duck came from Woolsey, who found a nest with 5 eggs on May 12th near Fargo, North Dakota, less than 2 miles from Minnesota.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

Risser and Rysgaard report two teal nests found June 3rd. One held 2 eggs and the other, 13 eggs. From St. Cloud came the following short note by Hanson and Hiemenz: "June 12th - nest and 10 broken eggs, the contents of which had been recently sucked out by some raiding marauder." Many observers reported broods of young.

WOOD DUCK

Our only report for this beautiful duck came from Itasca Park, where Ralph Eisele found a female with 6 half-grown young on July 21st.

RUDDY DUCK

Woolsey reported two nests of the Ruddy, both of which were found across the line in North Dakota, near Fargo. The first, discovered on June 24th, held 3 eggs, while the second was found nearly one month later, on July 22nd, when it contained 6 eggs.

HOODED MERGANSER

Morse and Feeney found a brood of 11 full-grown Hooded Mergansers in Itasca Park on August 1st, and also saw "many more" after that date.

AMERICAN & RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS

Our only records for these two species came from Isle Royale, where Rysgaard saw them with young, in July. He stated that the Mergansers were very common.

EASTERN GOSHAWK

One of the prize observations of the season was turned in by Marius Morse, who reported a Goshawk's nest found April 10th, containing 3 eggs and located near Cloquet, Carlton County. Several days later it held four eggs. (See article in the May issue of the FLICKER describing this find.) William Webb also saw this nest.

COOPER'S HAWK

On May 3rd DuToit and Upson found a nest containing 3 eggs of this darting scamp. The latest nest reported held 4 eggs and was found by Hiemenz near Clearwater, Wright County, on May 25th.

RED-TAILED & KRIDER'S HAWKS

The earliest and latest nests of this placid Butoo were reported by Hiemenz, from the St. Cloud region. On March 28th he discovered a completed but empty nest which, on the second of April, contained 2 fresh eggs. A nest with young found by the same observer on the 2nd of May was the latest record. Hanson and Hiemenz together reported a nest found near Rockville on April 22nd, containing 2 hatching eggs. They add, "Both birds of this pair were very light, pure white below and very light above, the tail showing only faintly red." This is probably the Club's first nesting record for Krider's Hawk.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK

A nest with 2 eggs found by Hanson and Hiemenz on May 4th near St. Cloud was the earliest record. This nest has been in use since 1930, with the exception of 1933. The last nest was seen by Eisele on July 20th at Itasca Park. It held 2 young.

SOUTHERN BALD EAGLE

Four nests of this magnificent bird of prey were reported. On May 12th Marius Morse flushed an adult from a nest "about which it circled, uttering a peculiar squeaking noise." Contents of the nest which was 80 feet from the ground in a Norway Pine, were not known. This was near CutOfoot Sioux Lake, Itasca County. Hiemenz found a nest with 2 large young on June 9th near Cross Lake, Crow Wing County. On June 22nd Hanson saw a nest with 2 half-grown young on Tamarack Point, Lake Winnibigoshish. A ranger had previously taken another young bird from the nest for a pet, so there were originally three offspring in this Royal Household, perched 93 feet high in the top of a Norway Pine. The latest nest was reported from Itasca Park, where Eisele found 3 large young in a nest on June 28th. He reported that they left the nest about 2 weeks later. Feeney visited an Eagle's nest (same one?) in Itasca Park on July 25th and found "fresh signs about the nest. One full-grown young out of the nest. May have been a second young in it."

MARSH HAWK

On May 13th Hanson and Hiemenz set out to find the first Harrier's nest of the season. After locating one with 5 eggs they hunted around a little more and just to show how easy it was, they found another in the same slough (near St. Cloud). This also contained five eggs. The last nest of the season was found by Upson on July 11th, when it held four eggs.

OSPREY

The first nest of this species was reported by Hiemenz, who found it on June 9th near Cross Lake. Three eggs nestled in its lofty bosom. Morse and Feeney found the last nest at Itasca Park on July 31st, when it held "one, perhaps more, nearly full-grown young."

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK

Morse (he of the keen eyes and hearty laugh) found one of these diminutive falcons just after it had left the protecting confines of its home, on the 28th of June.

RUFFED GROUSE

On the 16th of May, Morse found 2 nests of this species near Cloquet. One held 4 eggs and the other, 6. The latest nest contained 12 eggs when seen by Feeney on July 21st at Itasca Park. However, the nest was "deserted July 22nd and eggs were found to be infertile."

EUROPEAN PARTRIDGE

A nest of this species containing 15 eggs and 2 eggs of the Ring-necked Pheasant, was discovered near Revillo, South Sakota, by Mrs. C. E. Peterson on June 5th.

EASTERN BOB-WHITE

No nests of this species were reported. The earliest brood was already <sup>able</sup> to fly when seen near Linwood by members of the M.B.C. who went on the club expedition of June 16-17. Those present were Dr. C. C. Prosser, Mr. Clemens, Gustav Swanson, Leander Fischer, Marius Morse, Axel Hanson, Charles DuToit, Robert Upson, Alden Risser, Donald Mahle, Kenneth Carlander, and Charles Evans.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

The first nest of this resplendant squaker was found by Risser on May 6th, when it held 3 eggs. Eisele reported the latest nest, one found on May 30th and containing 14 eggs.

SANDHILL CRANE

Upson and DuToit contribute an interesting note about this species: "June 20, 1934, Goose Lake, Polk County - The nest was situated in a marshy, rush-grown meadow about 20 yards from a sizeable grove. Surrounding dead reeds were pressed down over a hummock, but no other attempt at a nest had been made. Although the two eggs had hatched when we located the nest, one was nearly intact; one entire side had been chipped out, but the egg was not broken in half. A cattle herder who had last visited the nest on June 17th said the eggs had not been hatched at that time."

KING RAIL

A very interesting record is that of a nest of the King Rail found by Woolsey on June 9th in North Dakota near Fargo. At this time it held 2 eggs, and on the 24th of June there were 7 eggs. This nest was deserted due to the water going down, so the finder took one of the eggs. The bird was not seen at any time near the nest, but the egg was taken to the Museum of Natural History of the University of Minnesota, where editor Woolsey and our estimable president, Gustav Swanson, very carefully measured it and compared it with museum specimens until, in the opinion of these worthy gentlemen, there was little doubt as to its identity. This evidence, together with the facts that the nest fitted the published descriptions of a King Rail's nest and that a King Rail was seen near the site some time after the nest had been deserted, proving that the species was at least present, seems adequate to substantiate this record as valid. The importance of this record is evident when it is realized that no nests are reported north of Hennepin County by Dr. Roberts in his, "Birds of Minnesota."

VIRGINIA RAIL

Woolsey reported the earliest nest of this species, one with 8 eggs found near Vergas on June 3rd. The last nest was found near St. Cloud by Hiemenz and Hanson on June 12th, when it contained 9 eggs.

### FLORIDA GALLINULE

Risser and Rysgaard found a nest with 9 eggs of the gallinule on June 3rd. Another nest with 2 pipped eggs and 2 lively youngsters was located by Irene Jensen and the writer on June 23rd.

### AMERICAN COOT

No nests with eggs were reported this year, but Risser and DuToit found downy young several days old on the third of June.

### PIPING PLOVER

John Dobie's record of 3 nests of this unusual species, each with 4 eggs, found June 15th on Oak Point, Lake of the Woods, is one of our most interesting records. Club members will remember that the first Minnesota breeding record of this species was established by Gustav Swanson in 1932 at Lake of the Woods.

### KILLDEER

Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg report the earliest nest, found by them on April 28th, when it held 4 eggs. On July 8th Marius Morse found, in his wanderings near Mille Lacs Lake, a nest of this bird containing 2 newly-hatched young and one egg. Perhaps the most extraordinary find of the season is that of a Killdeer's nest containing one egg of its owner and one Cowbird egg. It was found by Risser on a golf course near Sturgeon Lake on July 13th. The fate of the young Cowbird is suggested by the following note which he supplies: "On the 16th one of the boys noticed a young bird in this nest, and the following morning I returned and found the bird still incubating, but there was only the Killdeer's egg remaining." From this we might surmise that the young Cowbird did not receive the proper care, such as he would have experienced in an altricial bird's nest. This Cowbird's egg was noticeably larger than the ordinary Cowbird's egg, and Risser comments, "The possibility of this somewhat atypical Cowbird egg being a very atypical Killdeer egg has been considered, but I doubt this because of the typical passerine shape of the egg (rounded) the texture of the egg shell, and the color of the egg (white background with light brown markings) and the fact that the egg hatched. I do not think so small a Killdeer's egg would have hatched."

### AMERICAN WOODCOCK

The only nest reported for this bird was that found by Marius Morse within the city limits of Cloquet. It contained 4 eggs. On June 9th Evans found one family of six Woodcocks, including four large young only slightly smaller than the adults, and another family of one adult and two rather large downy young. These two families were not a quarter of a mile apart, but were nearly a mile from the place where Woodcocks are commonly observed courting.

UPLAND PLOVER

Two nests of this fine prairie bird were reported. On May 20th Hiemenz found a nest with 1 fresh egg, near Hutchinson. The other nest was seen by members of the M.B.C. who were on the trip to Linwood Lake June 17 (see list under BOB-WHITE). In addition to the above, a nest found near Reville, S. Dak. by Mrs. Peterson contained 4 eggs on June 5th.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER

Several observers saw downy young, but there were only two nests of this species reported. On June 12th Hiemenz found a nest with 3 eggs, near St. Cloud. Three days later, Dobie found a nest with 3 eggs on Oak Point, Lake of the Woods.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE

The only report for this handsome shorebird came from Hanson and Hiemenz, who found one broken egg lying on the ground at Little Rock Lake on June 7th. They were unable to find young or a nest, although the bird flushed three times from the same place.

HERRING GULL

P. O. Fryklund found 30 nests of this beautiful scavenger on May 19th, when he visited Gull Rock on Lake of the Woods. They held from 1 to 4 eggs, the average being 3. Of a few eggs collected, all were fresh. Exactly a month later Dobie visited this colony and found both eggs and young. Only 15 nests were in use at that time. Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg reported nests from Two Harbors, Lake County, on June 17th, and four days later, with Dr. Prosser, they found these Gulls nesting near Grand Marais.

FORSTER'S TERN

On June 5th Prosser discovered a nest containing 2 eggs of Forster's Tern at Heron Lake, Jackson County. Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg make an interesting contribution concerning this graceful sprite. "Three pairs carrying food out into a slough three miles east of Shakopee, July 7th. Impossible to investigate, but am convinced the birds were nesting there, though this is a considerable distance east of their known breeding range in Minnesota."

COMMON TERN

The only nests reported for this dainty fisherman were seen by John Dobie on June 15th at Oak Point, Lake of the Woods. 13 nests with from 1 to 3 eggs comprised this colony.

BLACK TERN

Risser and DuToit reported the first nest of this bird for the Twin City area, found on June 3rd, at which time it held 2 eggs. On the same date Woolsey found several nests near Vergas, containing 2 and 3 eggs. A colony of 100 pairs, near St. Cloud, was visited by Hanson and Hiemenz on June 12th. "Three nests held 3 eggs each and 2 nests held one

egg each. Many nests with incubating birds were also seen." On June 19th Hanson found many nests with "fresh eggs to young" at Lake Winnibigoshish.

#### WESTERN MOURNING DOVE

For the earliest as well as the latest nest of this amorous bird we must again turn to the indefatigable Hiemenz. On the 27th of April he found a nest with 2 eggs at Pine Point, and on the 22nd of August he found a nest with two small young at St. Cloud. Of the forty-four nests found by Hiemenz and Hanson this season, seven were placed on the ground. Dr. Prosser reports an unusual find in the form of a Mourning Dove's nest with 3 eggs, found near Afton, Washington County, on June 11th. (See note in "Here and There")

#### BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

Hiemenz found the only nest of this species reported, near Cross Lake, on June 9th, when it held 3 eggs and one young bird.

#### SCREECH OWL

To Hanson goes the honor for finding both the earliest and the latest nests of this little mcuser. On the 3rd of May he discovered a nest with 3 eggs and a month later, on the 3rd of June, he found a nest with young. Both of these were near St. Cloud.

#### GREAT HORNED OWL

A number of observers reported nests of this powerful terror of the night, but our friends from St. Cloud again lead the field. On March 4th Hanson and Hiemenz found a nest with 3 eggs near St. Cloud. A nest with 2 large young were found at Pine Point by Hiemenz on April 29th.

#### WESTERN BURROWING OWL

Although no positive nesting records of this interesting westerner were reported, Upson and DuToit contribute the following note: "June 19, 1934, Lac qui Parle County - Certain debris in the tunnel, such as bird and animal remains, and the conduct of the adults, indicated nesting; however, the number of eggs or young was not ascertained as none were in sight and the burrow was too long to permit reaching its end."

#### BARRED OWL

Two nests found near St. Cloud are interesting not only because they are the earliest and latest recorded but also because they were both open nests. On April 2nd, Hanson and Hiemenz located a nest with 2 young about a week old. A nest with 2 young almost ready to fly was found by Hanson on May 5th.

#### LONG-EARED OWL

The only nest of the Long-eared Owl reported was found by Dick Jung near Princeton, Mille Lacs County, on April 21st. Reposing in it were four fresh eggs.

NIGHTHAWK

Three young Nighthawks attain the distinction of being mentioned in these pages. The first was found by Mrs. E. O. Wilson near Montevideo on the 12th of July. After an intensive search this youngster, not over four inches long, was located resting amid, and looking very much a part of, the surrounding vegetation. Entirely oblivious of the honor of being found by a member of the M.B.C., the drab little fellow just sat there motionless until he was touched, whereupon he revealed his hitherto hidden energy by slightly raising an eyelid. Two other half-grown young found by Hanson in St. Cloud on July 13th must have come from a line of intellectuals, for their interest in higher education had gained expression in the location of their home on the roof of the Cathedral High School.

CHIMNEY SWIFT

The only nest of this species included in the reports was found by Hiemenz in St. Cloud on June 15th, when it held 2 fresh eggs.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Two nests of this animated gem were included among the records. The first was found by Swanson and Prosser at Root Lake, Anoka County, on July 10th, when it held 1 egg. The second nest was found by Prosser near Linwood Lake on July 31st, when it was under construction. On August 5th the bird was incubating.

EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER

Hanson and Hiemenz of St. Cloud report a nest with 4 fresh eggs. found on May 15th. The latest nest was found by Mr. and Mrs. Mahle on June 24th. An adult was seen carrying food into the nest hole, but the contents were not investigated.

NORTHERN FLICKER

The earliest nest of this many-monickered woodpecker was found by Hiemenz near St. Cloud on May 3rd, when he discovered a bird excavating in a half-finished nest. On the 13th, Hanson and Hiemenz found a nest with an incubating bird. The latest nest was reported by Risser. On June 27th he found 3 young leaving their nest near Sturgeon Lake.

NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER

The only nest of this giant woodpecker included in the reports was found by the University ornithology class. Mrs. W. J. Breckenridge, a member of the class, reported that the bird flushed from the nest on May 7th and again on May 16th. The contents were not ascertained.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

The first nests of this flycatching, berry-picking, egg-eating knave were reported from St. Cloud. Hanson and Hiemenz reported "several nests" for May 16th. Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg found the latest nest on July 1st, when it contained small young. Hiemenz observed small

young out of the nest which were still being fed, on August 22nd near St. Cloud.

#### YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Woolsey reported Sapsuckers excavating on April 22nd in Itasca Park. Irene Johnson and the writer found 2 nests with noisy young on June 23rd. One of these was a full 30 feet from the ground while the other was only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high.

#### HAIRY WOODPECKER

On April 6th Hiemenz found a Hairy excavating in a half-finished nest, but there were no records of occupied nests earlier than May 20th. On that date a nest full of vociferous young was observed by a party of M.B.C. members including Risser, Mahle, Upson, Dufoit, Kenneth Carlander and his father, and Evans. The latest nests were reported on June 17th from two localities. On this date a nest with young was found at St. Cloud by Hanson and Hiemenz, and another nest with young was found by the bird club party at Linwood (see BOB-WHITE for list of members present.)

#### DOWNY WOODPECKER

No early records of occupied nests of this species were reported, but on April 30th a bird was seen excavating in a half-finished nest near St. Cloud (Hiemenz). A nest with young was found June 17th at Linwood by members of the bird club party (see list under HAIRY WOODPECKER). Rysgaard found a nest with young on Isle Royale near Lake Ritche, July 9th.

#### EASTERN KINGBIRD

The first nests for this season were found on June 10th, when Hiemenz at St. Cloud discovered an incubating bird and John Huseby at Farm Island Lake, Aitkin County, found a nest with 4 eggs. The credit for finding the latest nest must also be divided, for on July 4th Hiemenz found a nest with 4 eggs near Pierz, Morrison County, while on the same day Mr. and Mrs. Mahle saw an incubating bird near the Twin Cities.

#### ARKANSAS KINGBIRD

The only Minnesota nests of this attractive spitfire were reported by Hanson and Hiemenz. On June 3rd they found a half-finished nest near St. Cloud; on the 20th the bird was incubating. June 10th Hiemenz found a nest which had just been started and which held one fresh egg on the 19th. Not ten feet away was an occupied Baltimore Oriole's nest, showing that, though the Kingbirds are no doubt pugnacious, they don't mind neighbors that tend to their own business. Hanson found a nest containing 1 egg, near Avon, Stearns County, on June 13th. On June 5th Mrs. Peterson discovered a nest of this species, consisting of 4 eggs deposited in a deserted Robin's nest, near Revillo, South Dakota.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER

Although no occupied nests of this militant insectivore were found early in the season, there were three "building" records. Hanson and Hiemenz saw a bird carrying nesting material on May 13th, and a month later an almost-finished nest was found by Hanson. Both of these records were for St. Cloud. On May 31st, Evans watched a pair of these birds which were in an amorous mood, carrying nesting material into a tree to the accompaniment of much love-making and fussing about. The latest nest was found by Evans when he frightened the one remaining fledgling from its home in a birch stump near Alexandria on July 6th. (There was no snakekin in this nest.)

EASTERN PHOEBE

Of the many nests of this species reported, the one found by Woolsey at Itasca Park on April 22nd, when it was still under construction but nearly completed, is the earliest. On May 4th Mrs. E. G. Wilson saw adults carrying food but could not see into the nest. The last nest was noted by Eisela at Itasca Park on July 21st, when it held 4 eggs. Hiemenz reported a Phoebe's nest with 5 eggs, built on an old Barn Swallow's nest under a bridge (Hutchinson, May 19th). Another interesting record is that of Hanson and Hiemenz, regarding a nest with 5 small young found on May 28th near St. Cloud. June 13th this nest held only 1 Cowbird egg, which was removed. The next day there was a Phoebe's egg in it, the beginning of a second brood.

ALDER FLYCATCHER

Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg reported a nest of this species with 1 egg, found near Onamia, Mille Lacs County, on June 10th. No other nests were reported.

LEAST FLYCATCHER

Of the many nests of this demure, hoarse-voiced little flycatcher reported, the earliest and one of the most interesting was found by Hiemenz on June 1st at Big Watab Lake. It held 2 Cowbird eggs only, and the flycatcher was incubating them. The latest nest was found by Prosser and the Swedenborgs near Cambridge, Isanti County, on July 15th. It contained small young.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE

The earliest nest of this doleful-sounding species was found by John Dobie at Oak Point, Lake of the Woods, on June 16th. Hanson of St. Cloud found the last nest on June 29th. On it was an incubating bird. Young out of the nest, being fed, were seen at St. Cloud by Hiemenz on August 15th.

HORNED LARK

The first occupied nest was found by Rysgaard on March 27th. Three half-grown young nestled within its confines. Rissor reported the latest nest, which contained 1 egg on April 20th. Two days later he found, in place of the sunken cup-shaped nest, a gopher hole, with the remains of the nest scattered thereabout.

TREE SWALLOW

Eisele reported the earliest occupied nest of this species, found on May 20th. Its contents were 2 eggs. Prior to this, Hiemenz and Hanson had found nests on May 3rd, 15th and 25th which were not examined or were still empty. On July 4th Hanson found young leaving the nest to establish the season's latest record for this species.

BANK SWALLOW

The first occupied nest of this gregarious species was reported by Rissor, who found it on May 19th at Frontenac. Five eggs were hidden at the end of this burrow. Nearly a month previously, on April 22nd. Mr. and Mrs. Mahle, Jensen and Evans had watched a Bank Swallow carrying twigs. Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg found several nests with young on July 4th, our latest date.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

Although Hiemenz found these birds building near St. Cloud as early as May 17th, no occupied nests were reported before June 3rd, when Rissor and Rysgaard, those redoubtable ramblers, investigated a nest containing 6 eggs. A nest with 5 eggs, found near St. Cloud on June 19th by Hiemenz, was the latest recorded.

BARN SWALLOW

The first occupied nests for the season were found by Hiemenz at Hutchinson on May 18th. There were 8 nests under a bridge, two of which were investigated. One of these contained 2 fresh eggs while the other was completed but empty. The latest Minnesota record came from Eisele, who found a nest with 4 eggs on August 3rd. These hatched on August 9th. Hiemenz found a nest with 4 large young on September 2nd in South Dakota, just across the line from Browns Valley, Traverse County.

NORTHERN CLIFF SWALLOW

The Swedenborgs reported 6 pairs of these graceful swallows nesting again at the same place near Minneapolis that they have been seen previous years. These birds were building on May 5th and incubating on May 19th. Prosser saw 2 young birds and one adult of this species perched on a wire with many Tree Swallows, three miles north of McGregor, Aitkin County.

PURPLE MARTIN

Hiemenz noted martins building on May 4th at St. Cloud, but it was not until June 22nd that Hanson investigated a nest at Lake Winnibigoshish and found it to contain 3 eggs. No earlier records of occupied nests were reported. Hiemenz and Hanson each reported several nests found in dead stumps sticking out of the water. The latest nest of the season was found by John Huseby near Mille Lacs on August 3rd, when it contained young birds.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY

Although Hanson and Hiemenz found a completed but empty nest on April 26th near St. Cloud, there were no occupied nests recorded until May 9th. On that date Eisele found a nest with 2 eggs. Hanson and Hiemenz found the latest nest near St. Cloud on June 11th, when it held 1 fresh egg.

EASTERN CROW

The earliest nest of this black fugitive was found on April 8th near Grand Lake by Hanson and Hiemenz. It was completed but empty on this date, but on April 22nd it held 5 eggs. To Hiemenz must also go the credit for the last nest, which was located in the midst of a Night Heron colony near Hutchinson and was the home of two large young when seen on May 19th.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

The earliest occupied nest of this species held 5 fresh eggs when it was discovered near St. Cloud by Hiemenz on May 13th. Swedenborg and Prosser watched young being fed in a nest more than 25 feet from the ground on June 17th near Loon Lake, Cook County.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

The only occupied nest reported was found by Hanson and Hiemenz near Fair Haven on May 27th, when it contained young. There were several reports of young out of the nest, adults carrying food, etc.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Eisele supplied the only data on this interesting northerner, from Itasca Park. On July 6th Dr. Dawson showed him 3 young out of the nest, accompanied by 2 adults.

HOUSE WREN

A number of "building records" were reported, the earliest being May 13th at St. Cloud (Hanson and Hiemenz); but no occupied nests were investigated until Hiemenz found one on June 1st at Grand Lake with 6 fresh eggs. Risser found the latest nest on August 8th at Rush City, Chisago County. It was filled by young several days old.

PRAIRIE MARSH WREN

The first occupied nest of this industrious house-builder was located by Prosser on June 1st, when it held 4 eggs. Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg found the last nest near Shakopee on July 7th. In it were 2 fresh eggs. On June 16th Hiemenz investigated 35 nests at Grand Lake and was rewarded by finding all but one of these empty--- and the one held only 1 egg. Whether the industry of the wrens or the determined persistence of the ornithologist is the more remarkable, it is hard to say.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN

For some reason which is unknown, there was a very marked dearth of records for this diminutive species. Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg found a nest lined but empty on June 8th, but it was destroyed the next day. This is our sole record for the season.

CATBIRD

The first nest of this joyous singer was found at Frontenac on May 19th by Mahle, Risser, DuToit and Upson. Two eggs comprised its contents. Hiemenz wound up the season for this species by finding 3 nests on July 13th at St. Cloud. One of these held 2 eggs, while the other two each had four small young. Incidentally, Hiemenz and his friend Hanson accumulated data on 53 Catbird nests this season.

BROWN THRASHER

To Hiemenz goes the credit for both the earliest and latest nesting records of this musical contortionist. On May 20th he found 2 nests at Hutchinson with 2 and 4 eggs respectively, and on the 19th of June he located a nest with 2 fresh eggs near St. Cloud.

EASTERN ROBIN

The earliest record for the Robin came from Mrs. Wilson, who found a nest being built on April 19th at Montevideo, Chippewa County. On the 25th the bird was incubating. The last occupied nest was seen on July 29th at Sturgeon Lake by that buoyant youth called Risser. His knack for always being at the right place at the right time is well typified by this example, for he happened upon the aforementioned nest at the very time that the fledglings were leaving it. On August 5th Mr. A. C. Rosenwinkel saw 2 very large young nestlings (or ex-nestlings) out of a nest which he says they probably left on August 3rd or 4th. Mrs. Wilson included an interesting comment with her records: "most of the Robin nests in this locality contained only 2 eggs and in nearly every case only one nestling reached maturity. Probably this was due to our drought conditions."

WOOD THRUSH

The earliest nests of this soul-stirring songster were found by Risser and Rysgaard on June 3rd. Of the two nests they found, one held 2 eggs and small young, while in the other were 3 Cowbird eggs and one egg of the thrush. Mrs. Wilson supplied the latest record from Montevideo, that of a nestling still being fed on July 4th. Prosser found two interesting nests at Afton on June 11th. Both were in vines about 9 feet from the ground and contained very little mud. They were about 300 feet apart and each contained a Cowbird's egg besides their respective 4 and 2 thrush eggs.

EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH

This caroler of the sylvan solitudes was found nesting at Cloquet by Feeney who, on June 8th, located a nest with 2 eggs and a Cowbird's egg. The last nest, found on July 21st at Itasca Park by Eisele, contained 3 eggs.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH

This elusive thrush yielded to the ornithological zeal of Dr. Prosser and Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg this year. The former reported their find as follows: "Caribou Lake, Cook County, June 21st and 22nd -- Three nests of this thrush were found along the west shore of one arm of the lake. They were all in small Balsams 8 to 10 feet from the ground. The first one had been robbed, the shell of one egg on the ground telling the tale. The second was complete but empty, and the third, to change our luck, disclosed four eggs."

WILLOW THRUSH

The earliest nest of the Veery was found by Hiemenz near Clearwater on May 25th. Besides 3 eggs of the thrush, it held one Cowbird egg. Morse reported a most remarkable case of Cowbird parasitism for this species. On July 7th at Mille Lacs Lake he found a Veery's nest with 2 thrush eggs and 8 Cowbird eggs. He explains, "This nest was in a very much exposed 3-foot spruce tree, not more than 15 feet from a winding road through the woods. Apparently 4 different Cowbirds had laid one or more eggs." A Veery's nest placed much as one would expect to find that of a Wood Thrush was found in an elderberry bush about 3 or 4 foot from the ground by members of the Linwood expedition (see BOB-WHITE). Two eggs were in the nest on June 17th. The latest Veery's nest was seen on July 25th at Itasca Park by Eisele. It held 2 eggs.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Eisele found the earliest nest of this soft-spoken bird on April 29th, when it held 2 eggs. Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg reported the latest nest (July 4th, 7 eggs) for this species. We wonder if this last pair were trying to make up for the decreased number of young in drought-stricken areas.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

One of the most important finds of the year was nesting gnatcatchers. On May 25th, a bird was seen gathering nesting material near Clearwater by Hiemenz. A nest with 2 young about a week old and 3 addled eggs was found near St. Cloud by Hanson and Hiemenz on June 17th. The young left the nest when it was approached on June 22nd. Details of these interesting records will be published in a separate article.

EASTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

As in past years, we turn to the Swedenborgs for records of this tiny species. Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg and Dr. Prosser found a nest containing 6 small young at Loon Lake on June 19th.

CEDAR WAXWING

A nest with one egg, found near St. Cloud on June 19th by Hiemenz, was the earliest occupied nest reported. Eisele found the latest nest, containing 4 eggs, at Itasca Park on July 27th.

MIGRANT SHRIKE

Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg found the earliest nest of this species on May 4th, when it held 4 eggs. For the latest nest we must turn to St. Cloud, where Hanson found one on June 14th with 5 young ready to leave.

STARLING

That this obnoxious invader is steadily increasing in our fair state is evidenced by the following nesting reports: A nest with vociferous young was found by Risser, Mahle, Upton, DuToit, Carlander and Evans on May 20th at Miesville, near Hastings. Prosser found a pair in a martin box at Lakeland and also observed them nesting in a woodpecker hole at Point Douglas, during May, in Washington County. Near St. Cloud nests were found in two places. On June 19th Hiemenz found a nest where it was impossible to investigate the contents, and on June 27th Hanson and Hiemenz found a nest under construction and nearly completed.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

The finding of the first nest was accomplished by Mrs. Mahle on the 20th of May, and therein lies a tale. It seems that this comely young lady was deserted by her husband on that particular weekend, as he was journeying elsewhere in search of ornithological experiences. Whereupon she and her girl friends planned a bird trip of their own; but when the appointed hour arrived, only a slender young lassie named Jensen was at hand to join the resourceful Mrs. Mahle; and alas, this damsel too had to leave when the shadows grew long and the moon shone bright. Undaunted even by desertion, courageous Mrs. Mahle slept that night under the twinkling stars and awoke to hear the joyous chorus of a thousand feathered throats pouring forth the gladness of a perfect spring morning. Then she found it—the earliest nest of the Yellow-throated Vireo ever reported to the FLICKER. (And friend hubby had never seen the nest of one of these birds!) The contents of the nest were not investigated until May 26th, when it held 1 vireo egg and 1 Cowbird egg. Just to do things up right, Mr. and Mrs. Mahle also found the latest nest and saw the young leaving it on June 25th. Hiemenz visited a nest near St. Cloud on June 11th, from which he had to forcibly pull the female as she clung to its sides. Four vireo eggs and one Cowbird egg were found beneath her.

RED-EYED VIREO

A nest with 2 eggs, found June 8th near Cross Lake by Hiemenz, was the first occupied one reported. Prosser found the latest nest at Linwood. The one lone fledgling left this nest on August 1st.

EASTERN WARBLING VIREO

On June 3rd Risser and Rysgaard found a nest with 1 egg of this species, and another with 2 eggs. No nests were reported later than these found at Linwood on June 16th, one of which held 4 eggs. (See BOB-WHITE for list of observers)

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER

A nest of three well-developed young was found by Prosser at Ham Lake, Anoka County, on June 9th. Two of the young left the nest on being disturbed.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

A female of this species was seen carrying food by Prosser near Linwood on June 28th. No nests were found.

NASHVILLE WARBLER

Our record for this species comes from Prosser, who saw a Nashville Warbler feeding a young Cowbird out of the nest on July 25th at Lake Minnowawa, Aitkin County.

EASTERN YELLOW WARBLER

Of the many reported nests of this common species, the first ones occupied were found May 25th by Hiemonz and Hanson near St. Cloud. Of the five nests seen by them that day 3 were not quite completed and two held 2 and 4 eggs respectively. The latest nest held 2 Warbler eggs and 3 Cowbird eggs when found by Risser near Sturgeon Lake on July 5th.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

Two nests of this species add considerably to the value of this year's report. The first was found at Loon Lake on June 18th by Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg and Dr. Prosser. It held four eggs. Two days later, on June 20th, Hanson found a nest holding four half-grown young, near Lake Winnibigoshish.

MYRTLE WARBLER

The only nest reported for this species was found by Rysgaard on Isle Royale on July 9th, but its inaccessibility prevented him from determining its contents. On June 22nd Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg and Dr. Prosser observed Myrtle Warblers feeding young out of the nest near Caribou Lake. A young Cowbird out of the nest was seen being fed by adults of this species on July 25th near Lake Minnowawa by Dr. Prosser.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

Eisele reported 2 young of this species being fed out of the nest at Itasca Park on July 11th.

CERULEAN WARBLER

One of the season's most unexpected discoveries was made by Prosser when he found a number of Cerulean Warblers nesting near Linwood, Anoka County. Details will be presented in a separate article at a later date. The reported nests were June 13th, nest and 1 egg (Prosser); June 20th, nest with 2 eggs and one large young (see list of observers under BOB-WHITE); June 24th, building (Milton Thompson and Prosser); and June 27th, feeding young in nest (Douglas Campbell and Prosser).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

One young of this richly-colored species was seen by Eisele, being fed at Itasca Park on July 18th.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

Our only record for this species also comes from Linwood, where Prosser found a pair building on June 29th. Their nest held 3 eggs on July 3rd.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER

Risser found a nest of this tree-top triller, under construction on July 5th at Sturgeon Lake.

OVEN-BIRD

The earliest occupied nest of this plain warbler was found by Russell Johnson near Grand Marais on June 17th, when its contents were 4 young and 1 egg. The latest nest was reported by Prosser and found by Douglas Campbell at Linwood Lake on July 9th, when it held 3 eggs.

GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH

To Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg and Dr. Prosser goes the credit for finding the first Minnesota nest of this species. They located it at Caribou Lake, Cook County, on June 22nd, when it held 4 eggs. Although this species had been seen many times previously during the breeding season and even found feeding young in the northern part of the state, the nest had not been found before in Minnesota.

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH

Kenneth Carlander found a very interesting nest of this species on May 19th. On that date it contained 11 eggs, although this bird usually lays only 4 to 6. On June 3rd this nest was seen again by Carlander and DuToit and found to contain only 9 eggs. Although the incubation period for this bird is supposed to be 12 to 14 days (Forbush), the second visit to the nest was 15 days after the first and yet there were no young in the nest.

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT

The earliest nests of this species were found in two localities on June 8th. Near Cross Lake a nest with 5 fresh eggs was found by Hiemenz, while another nest with 4 eggs was found by Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg. The latest was found June 17th at Linwood, where several nests of this bird were found by the Club expedition (see list under BOB-WHITE). One of these held 5 eggs and another 1 egg and 3 young of various sizes, the smallest just emerging laboriously from the egg.

AMERICAN REDSTART

The earliest nest was found on May 31st near St. Cloud by Hiemenz. Although there were only 2 Cowbird eggs in it, the female Redstart was on the nest. The latest record also comes from St. Cloud, where Hanson and Hiemenz found a nest containing 3 eggs on July 20th.

ENGLISH SPARROW

Only four records for this pugnacious foreigner were reported. On May 1st Hiemenz found a nest at St. Cloud which harbored large young. August 2nd he investigated a nest with 5 fresh eggs near Pierz, and August 23rd he found a nest with 3 fresh eggs.

BOBOLINK

A nest of this joyous songster, with 2 Cowbird eggs and 2 of the owner's, was found by Hanson and Hiemenz at Little Rock Lake on June 7th. Another Bobolink egg lay broken on the ground beside the nest--probably the work of the Cowbird. No nests were found later than June 17th, on which date the memorable expedition to Linwood occurred (refer to enumeration of participants' names under BOB-WHITE). Two nests were recorded on this trip; one with 5 eggs and another with 2 eggs and three young.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK

For some strange reason only one nest of this common species was reported. That was found by Jensen and Evans on June 23rd, when it held three eggs.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Eisele found the first nest of this species on May 20th, when it held 4 eggs. A young Western Meadowlark just out of the nest was seen by Mrs. Wilson on July 10th at Montevideo.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

The earliest nests were found on June 3rd, when Risser and DuToit came upon a nest with 4 eggs and another with 3 young. On the same date Woolsey discovered several nests, each with 3 eggs, near Vorgas. A nest with 4 eggs found by Hanson on June 23rd at Lake Winnibigoshish constitutes the latest record.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Prosser found the earliest nest of this species on May 12th, when it held 1 egg each of the owner and of the Cowbird. Two nests with 3 small young and 4 large young respectively were found on July 5th near Pierz by Hiemenz. This observer and his friend Hanson had a rather good season with the Red-wings, finding a good number of nests, of which they reported 89.

ORCHARD ORIOLE

The only record for this bird was supplied by Hanson and Hiemenz, who found an adult male feeding one young bird just out of the nest, in the tourist park at St. Cloud on June 26th.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE

The earliest nest of this brilliant whistler was found by Hiemenz on May 22nd while it was still under construction. On June 5th it held four eggs.

On this date Hanson and Hiemenz investigated three other occupied nests. A nest with small young, found on July 4th near Pierz by Hiemenz, was the latest nest reported.

#### BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

The earliest nest of this species was found May 20th at Hutchinson by Hiemenz. It contained 1 egg. Members of the Linwood expedition of the M.B.C., including Prosser, Morse, and Hanson, found a nest with 3 addled eggs and 2 young birds on June 16th, the latest date for Brewer's Blackbird.

#### BRONZED GRACKLE

One nest of the "Crow Blackbird", with two eggs, and several others, unfinished or recently completed, were found by Hiemenz at St. Cloud on May 1st. The latest occupied nest was found by Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg and Dr. Prosser at Caribou Lake on June 22nd, when it held 4 eggs. Mrs. Wilson found grackles feeding young just out of the nest on July 10th at Montevideo.

#### COWBIRD

A Cowbird's egg in a Killdeer's nest was the quecrost record reported this season. It was seen by Risser at Sturgeon Lake on July 13th. (See KILLDEER for details) The most astonishing record concerning this pest was turned in by Morse, who found a Veery's nest with 2 eggs and 8 Cowbird eggs on July 8th at Mille Lacs Lake. (For details see WILLOW THRUSH). A good example of heavy infestation is Prosser's record of a "dozen or more" Red-eyed Vireo nests found at Linwood, every one holding at least one Cowbird egg. The reports by Hiemenz and Hanson include some interesting Cowbirds notes. They found 2 nests (Redstart and Least Flycatcher) each of which contained nothing but 2 Cowbird eggs, which were being incubated. On June 1st, Hiemenz found a Song Sparrow's nest with "3 young about a week old and 2 almost-fresh Cowbird's egg." This indicates that the Cowbird probably laid an egg in a nest containing young birds. A second Song Sparrow's nest found by the same observer on June 1st held 2 eggs and 4 Cowbird eggs. The latter were of two types, indicating that 2 Cowbirds must have used the nest, if that is a reliable way to judge. The earliest Cowbird egg was found May 11th in a Song Sparrow's nest by Hiemenz and the latest date was July 13th, when Risser found the Killdeer's nest containing a Cowbird egg. A total of 28 species of birds were reported parasitized this year, as follows: Killdeer (Risser), Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Willow Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler (Prosser), Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Yellow-throat, Redstart, Bobolink, Meadowlark (Prosser - species not given), Red-winged Blackbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal (C. M. Welch), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (Hanson and Hiemenz), Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (Risser), Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

SCARLET TANAGER

The earliest nest of this beautiful bird had 1 egg when found by Woolsey on June 2nd at Vergas. He remarks, "The female was so tame she nearly had to be lifted from the nest in order to ascertain its contents." Prosser and Swanson saw the latest nest at Linwood on July 7th, when the bird was incubating.

EASTERN CARDINAL

A nest with 3 eggs, found by Risser on April 22nd, was the earliest record for this jaunty fellow. Our latest record came from Prosser, who reported a nest with 2 eggs, seen by Roy Thompson on July 31st.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

The first occupied nest of this species was found at Hutchinson on May 19th by Hiemenz. Its contents were 2 grosbeak eggs and one Cowbird egg. Dr. Prosser and Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg found the last nest on June 20th at Loon Lake. It was well-filled by 3 large young.

INDIGO BUNTING

Only one occupied nest of this beautiful bird was reported. This was found by members of the M.B.C. expedition to Linwood (see list under BOB-WHITE) on June 16th. It held one large Cowbird nestling. Hiemenz found several nests before they contained eggs, the first on June 4th at Clearwater being completed but empty.

DICKCISSEL

Although this was not a "Dickcissel year", Hiemenz managed to locate five nests of this species in one day, near Pierz, on July 5th. "The contents were as follows: 3 large young and 1 addled egg; 3 eggs; 4 eggs; 2 fresh eggs; and 1 egg. The nests were all placed in bushes or weeds from 10 inches to 2½ feet from the ground. There also were two pairs present with young just out of the nest and barely able to fly." No other nests were reported.

EASTERN PURPLE FINCH

Two nests of the Purple Finch were reported. Hanson found one containing 1 fresh egg on June 20th, at Lake Winnibigoshish. The other was found by Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg and Dr. Prosser at Caribou Lake on June 22nd, when it held 3 eggs. Eisele watched an adult carrying nesting material at Itasca Park on July 1st.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH

A nest with 3 eggs, found by Risser at Sturgeon Lake on July 11th, was the first record of an occupied nest this season. On a much earlier date (May 25th) Hanson and Hiemenz saw a Goldfinch carrying nesting material near St. Cloud. The latest nest, with eggs held 4 when found by Hiemenz on August 31st at St. Cloud. The same observer discovered a nest containing a young bird ready to leave the nest on September 16th,

also at St. Cloud. This fledgling was blind, so one of Hiemenz's friends took it home, but it died the next morning.

#### RED-EYED VIREO

Several members of the Club (see list under BOB-WHITE) who journeyed to Linwood on June 16th and 17th saw a young, nearly grown, Chewink out of the nest on the latter date. There were no other records for this bird.

#### SAVANNAH SPARROW

Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg found the earliest Savannah's nest on May 25th, when it held 4 eggs. The latest occupied nests were found on June 20th in Pennington County by DuToit and Upson. Of 2 nests located, one contained 4 eggs and the other, 4 young.

#### WESTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

A number of nests of this species were found on June 17th at Linwood by members of the Bird Club (see list under BOB-WHITE). Two of these nests held 5 eggs each. No other reports were received.

#### EASTERN VESPER SPARROW

A nest with 4 eggs, found May 15th by Hanson and Hiemenz, was the earliest this year. The latest nest was found by Risser on July 23rd, when the young were hatching. One had just emerged from the egg when the good man arrived, and another egg remained yet unhatched.

#### EASTERN LARK SPARROW

Our only data on occupied nests comes from St. Cloud. Hiemenz found a nest on June 22nd, when it held 3 eggs. When he revisited it on June 27th, one egg had hatched, another was hatching, and the third was gone, but a fresh Cowbird's egg had been added. He points out that it is not improbable that the Cowbird removed the missing egg. Another nest with 3 eggs was found by Hiemenz and Hanson on June 27th. Mrs. Wilson saw young able to fly but still being fed, on July 15th at Montevideo.

#### SLATE-COLORED JUNCO

The first nest of this species held 4 large young when found June 19th at Loon Lake by Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg and Dr. Prosser. This nest was built in a hollow left when a rock had dislodged from a roadside bank about 3 feet from the level of the road. The young left the nest on June 21st. The latest nest held 3 eggs and 2 Cowbird eggs when found on July 11th by Feeney at Itasca Park.

#### EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW

Of the many nests of the "Chippy" reported, the earliest held only 1 broken egg when found by Hanson and Hiemenz near St. Cloud on May 16th. Several observers reported occupied nests found on May 22nd. The latest nest was found by Eisele on July 21st at Itasca Park.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

Hiemenz reported both the earliest and latest nests of this sparrow. The first held 4 fresh eggs when he found it on June 1st near Grand Lake. On July 5th he found 2 nests, each with 2 eggs and 1 Cowbird egg. These were seen near Pierz.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW

Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg reported the earliest nest, which held 4 eggs on May 30th; also the latest nest, containing 2 fresh eggs, on June 29th. Prosser found young out of the nest but unable to fly on August 14th at Kinikinic, Washington County.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Morse found the earliest nest, situated under a fallen spruce near a creek, while it was yet unfinished, on May 27th at Cloquet. Risser found the last nest at Sturgeon Lake on June 28th when it held 1 egg and two Cowbird eggs.

SWAMP SPARROW

Hiemenz found the first occupied nest of this species on June 1st at Grand Lake. On this date he found 2 nests with 1 and 3 eggs respectively. The latest nests were found by members of the M.B.C. expedition to Linwood (see names under BOB-WHITE). Three of these nests held 4 young, 4 eggs, and 2 eggs and 1 Cowbird egg.

SONG SPARROW

Hiemenz gets the honors for finding the earliest and latest nest of this, the last species on our list. On May 11th at St. Cloud he found 2 nests, with 2 eggs, and 3 eggs and 1 Cowbird's egg respectively. These last two nests, as well as 3 others found by Hanson and Hiemenz on July 20th, were in bushes, one of them being in vines 6 feet from the ground. A nest found by Dr. Prosser and Mr. and Mrs. Swedenborg on June 21st was interesting because of the great difference in marking of its two eggs. One was so heavily spotted and blotched that the greenish background was nearly concealed, while the other was very lightly marked.

—MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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ARE WE NERTS?

by Kenneth Carlander

It really takes something to keep Bob Upson (and Charlie DuToit, Mr. Clemens, Axel Hanson, Marius Morse, Alden Risser, and Kenneth Carlander) away from food from 5 A.M. to 4 o' clock in the afternoon, especially when on the menu are included such items as Marius' grape jam, Alden's doughnuts, pork and beans, corn, peanut butter, sausage, bread, and potato chips. The thing that actually did this was the discovery of Henslow's Sparrows, and nests of Verper Sparrows, Yellow-throats, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and finally the nest of an Upland Plover. Before we say too much, however, let us start at the beginning and get the details.

Due to "finals", "comprehensives", and graduation exercises, the regular June meeting of the Minnesota Bird Club was changed to a field trip on the following week-end, June 16th - 17th. At Dr. Prosser's invitation we went to the scout camp on Linwood Lake near Wyoming, Minnesota, where he had seen a couple of pairs of Cerulean Warblers. In order to make sure that the club would find them, Dr. Prosser discovered, earlier in the week, their nest, the first record for Minnesota.

Two cars, containing Dr. Prosser, Axel Hanson, Marius Morse, Charles DuToit, Bob Upson and Mr. Clemens, left early Saturday morning. As the unworthy narrator of this account did not come until later, he will have to give their experiences as he heard them that evening, and trust that they will supplement this with their own notes and articles.

About noon, Alden Risser, Chuck Evans, Don Mahle and the writer started for camp, soon to be followed by President Gus and Ole Fischer in the latter's road flea (the Austin always will bear the brunt of jokes). The first four gentlemen (we might come under that heading) soon found several of the commoner nests: one Whipping Sparrow's, one Catbird's, several Yellow Warblers', and two Warbling Vireos'. Then we happened upon our first Cerulean Warbler and were soon led to its nest in the top of a Basswood (a stiff climb if I do say so). Soon all four of us had scampered or rather crawled, up within five or six feet of the nest, where we could see the one young and two eggs. To our surprise, the male bird came and fed the young while we were close enough to see way into the latter's stomach. After carefully removing the excreta, the male left, and the female returned to incubate the eggs—all while we were within six feet. A marvelous chance of studying one of Minnesota's rarest nests!

We met Ole and Gus just as Church yelled, "Hey, here's an owl! I don't know, but it looks like a Snowy Owl!" Upon

closer examination in better light it turned out to be a young Barred Owl, still with downy white plumage. Soon a Golden-winged Warbler was found by its waxwing-like call. Then Ole caught a young grouse, just able to fly. The adult bird circled the whole bunch of us with tail fanned out and ruffs erect, trying to make sure that we didn't hurt her darling, which latter was squealing lustily.

After a little more hiking, successful but not spectacular, we returned to camp and met the guys (excuse it, please) from the first two cars and learned that they had enjoyed quite a day. They found that the Cerulean Warbler's nest that Dr. Prosser had found had been destroyed by Red Squirrels. They had also seen a Henslow's Sparrow and found nests of Clay-colored Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Yellow-throats.

That night, after a magnificent feast (every one of us was easily hungry enough to eat a cow) and a delightful swim in the lake, we put our blankets on the sand and went to sleep under a clear, starry sky. But it wasn't to last. At midnight it started to rain, and half the bunch went to the dining hall to sleep on some mattresses. (The softies--they never told us about the mattresses until morning.)

The next morning (about 5 A.M.), after a hurried breakfast, the gentlemen mentioned in the first paragraph of this article started for the place where Marius, Axel, Charlie and Bob had seen the Henslow's Sparrow the day before. Chuck Evans and Don Mahle started out with us but soon went off on a trip of their own. Ole and Gus would have come along, excepting that they had to leave for home about 10 A.M. We proceeded without accident or extraordinary discovery to the large open field, the domicile of several Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows, Bobolinks, and (we hoped) Henslow's Sparrow. A few minutes' tramping found this latter bird. Then we began operations. Anyone visiting the field in the next few hours (we were lucky that no one did) would have thought it a picnic ground for the inmates of some insane asylum. We marched in close rank back and forth across the field under the leadership of honorable Capt. Risser, pouncing for the spots from which we flushed birds like so many cats after mice. Many weary hours (as it seemed to us, although it was probably only two) of marching lead to the discovery of the nests of a Yellow-throat and a Vesper Sparrow, but not that of Henslow's Sparrow. We then gave the systematic search up and started running around in circles, every which way, like chickens without heads. This was more successful and resulted in several nests of Bobolinks and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Finally Bob, Charlie, and Marius tired and went to sleep in a far part of the field. The next time we saw them

they were running toward us and yelling for us to come with them. They had found the nest of an Upland Plover. Sure enough, when they led us to it, the bird flushed from the four eggs hidden in the grass, and flew across the field. At this time we heard its beautiful whistled flight song. Before we had gone 100 yards from the nest the plover came back, lit beside the nest and slowly closed its graceful wings. It was a sight we will never forget. As we went back toward camp we all agreed that it was a wonderful trip, and though it was 4 P.M., we were less hungry and tired than we had been at 10 A.M.

In closing I wish to give a list of the birds seen (I hope that is complete) and trust that for the good of the Club we get a better chronicler next time.

#### LINWOOD LAKE BIRDS

Loon	Tree Swallow
Great Blue Heron	Bank Swallow, nests, eggs & young
Green Heron	Barn Swallow, nest
American Bittern	Purple Martin
Mallard	Blue Jay
Blue-winged Teal with young	Crow
Marsh Hawk, nest and eggs	Black-capped Chickadee
Ruffed Grouse, young	White-breasted Nuthatch
Bob-white, young	House Wren
Pheasant, young	Prairie Marsh Wren
Killdeer	Short-billed Marsh Wren
Upland Plover, nest & eggs	Catbird, nests, eggs, & young
Spotted Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher
Herring Gull	Robin
Caspian Tern	Veery, nest and egg
Black Tern	Bluebird
Mourning Dove	Cedar Waxwing
Barred owl, young	Migrant Shrike
Nighthawk	Yellow-throated Vireo
Chimney Swift	Red-eyed Vireo
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Warbling Vireo, nests and eggs
Belted Kingfisher	Black and White Warbler
Flicker	Golden-winged Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler, nests and eggs
Red-headed Woodpecker, nest	Black-throated Green Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Cerulean W., nest, young and eggs
Downy Woodpecker, nest & young	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Kingbird	Pine Warbler
Crested Flycatcher	Ovenbird, young
Phoebe, nest	Yellow-throat, nests and eggs
Alder Flycatcher	Redstart, nest and eggs
Least Flycatcher, nest	English Sparrow
Wood Pewee, nest and egg	Bobolink, nests, young, eggs

Eastern Meadowlark	Red-eyed Towhee, young
Western Meadowlark	Savannah Sparrow, young
Red-winged Blackbird	Grasshopper Sparrow, nests, eggs
Baltimore Oriole	Henslow's Sparrow
Brewer's Blackbird, nest, eggs, young	Vesper Sparrow, nest and eggs
Bronzed Grackle	Chipping Sparrow, nest, eggs
Cowbird	Clay-colored Sparrow, nest, eggs
Scarlet Tanager, nest and eggs	Field Sparrow
Indigo Bunting, nest and Cowbird	Swamp Sparrow, nest
Dickcissel	Song Sparrow
Goldfinch	

-- Minncapolis, Minnesota

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HERE AND THERECOWBIRD'S NEST?

While at Mille Lacs Lake on July 8th, I chanced to come upon the nest of a Veery, containing no less than eight eggs of the parasitic Cowbird and but two eggs of the shy, retiring Veery.

The large number of Cowbird eggs is probably best explained by a description of the nesting site, which seemed to be an unusually exposed one. The nest had been built in the crotch of a 4-foot spruce, not more than 15 feet from the side of a narrow road winding through the woods which bordered the lake. The incubating Veery allowed me to approach within 4 or 5 feet before flushing and winging directly to the leafy concealment of a large hard maple about 65 feet distant. Within two or three minutes after I would leave the nest (several trips were made), the Veery could be seen on her eggs again.

After closely examining and comparing the Cowbird's eggs, I was convinced that 4 different Cowbirds had deposited one or more eggs. My original plan was to collect the nest and eggs for the University Museum, but before I returned home, two Cowbird eggs hatched and both Veery eggs were in the process of being pipped.

--- Marius Morse  
Robbinsdale, Minn.

ECSTASY SONG OF THE OVENBIRD

across

It was just dusk when I began to paddle slowly/the glass-smooth water. I skirted the thickly wooded shore of the cove, enjoying the deep stillness of the forest. Suddenly, from the dark shadows of the spruce trees, an Ovenbird valuted into the air. Rising rapidly in a zigzag course above the tree-tops, he burst into a song not unlike that of a lark. Slowly gliding back into the deep shadows of the forest, he poured forth his joyous love song. The night was again calm and silent when I paddled back to camp, there to relate the incident before the camp fire.

--- George N. Rysgaard  
Rock Harbor, Isle Royale

POPULARITY PERSONIFIED

On the morning of May 14th, while watching the warbler migration along the Harriet Bridle Path in Minneapolis, my attention was directed to a pair of Brown Thrashers in a clump of brush. Such language! It was not in keeping with the spirit of the season for two Thrashers to carry on in such an unseemly manner. Wonderingly I turned my binoculars in their direction. Suddenly I experienced that same creepy sensation that I imagine the "sour-dough" experienced when he struck gold--felt it crawl up my spine and into my scalp. There, in the center of the field, was the end of the rainbow -- a Yellow-breasted Chat -- looking for all the world as if he had just stepped out of the plate

in Dr. Roberts' book. Perched on a swaying reed, about a foot from the ground, he was clowning his way through his peculiar medley of songs: "C-r-r-r-r-r, whrrr, that's it, ohee, quack, cluck, yit-yit-yit, now hit it, tr-r-r-r, when, caw, caw, cut-cut, tea-boy, who-who, mew-mew." (with apology to Mr. Burroughs).

An accomodating fellow, he stuck around for a couple of days until several members of the Audubon Society, including Dr. Roberts, had a chance to see him. He tried his best to live up to his reputation as a lover of the underbrush, but the news of his arrival spread rapidly, and with so many ornithological enthusiasts tramping through his natural habitat, he was forced to take to the tree-tops. Two days of this popularity sufficed, and he winged his way to more secluded parts.

--- Dr. C. C. Prosser  
Minneapolis, Minn.

#### A FEW MORE OR LESS STRAY INDIVIDUALS

One bright sunny morning late in June of this year found a considerable flock of campers roaming the shores of Sturgeon Lake (at the northern edge of Pine County) in search of feathered vertebrates. While trying to get a glimpse of a sly little Yellow Warbler, the air was suddenly pierced, to my astonishment, by the loud, clear whistle of a Cardinal, right behind one of our cabins. We didn't see him that day, but on several other occasions we did see a male Cardinal. I had spent the entire summer there for two years previously, and had never seen nor heard this species, so apparently this was a recent invasion.

On September 5th, also in 1934, I saw a Yellow-throated Vireo near Ely, which I understand is likewise a bit farther north than he belonged.

The following day, on the way home from Ely, we noticed a large hawk perched on a dead tree near the highway. It was so slender that I thought it might likely be somewhat out of the ordinary, so we slowed up and stopped the car just opposite the bird, which had the characteristic gray breast markings of an adult Goshawk. In less than a minute he flew away in true Accipiter fashion.

--- Alden Risser  
St. Paul, Minn.

#### A LOON MYSTERY

Last summer, while on Isle Royale, I chanced upon a Bald Eagle sitting on the shore, deeply engrossed in devouring some prey. Being very inquisitive, I entered upon the scene; the eagle promptly made his exit. An examination revealed the prey to be a good-sized loon, the head of which was missing (probably eaten). Any bird that can dive as well as a loon should be able to avoid even an eagle, and it is still a mystery to me how the latter came in possession of the former.

--- George N. Rysgaard

MOURNING DOVE MEETS COMPETITION'S DEMANDS

In a short stretch of scrub growth along a railroad track near Afton, Washington County, five birds constructed their nests at intervals of less than 20 feet. A pair of Northern Yellow-throats and a pair of grackles had completed their nests and were protesting my presence, although neither of them had eggs. Joining in the chorus were a pair of Robins and a pair of Catbirds, while Mr. and Mrs. Mourning Dove also looked on disapprovingly.

Evidently the competition in this little colony was keen; at least Mrs. Mourning Dove had performed her maternal duties with such persistence that success had crowned her efforts. She was the proud possessor of three beautiful white eggs.

--- Dr. Clare C. Prosser  
Minneapolis, Minn.

SUBMERSIBLE SANDPIPER

A downy young Spotted Sandpiper, unable to fly, was seen on July 31st at Sturgeon Lake. This youngster, when pursued, took to the water, in which he swam, perhaps not with ease, but at least with skill. When, to his astonishment and dismay the pursuers followed him even into the lake and were again closing in on him, he deftly dove beneath the surface of the shallow water and gave us a beautiful view of his under-water swimming technique. Holding his neck outstretched and letting his feet stretch directly back under his tail like a heron in flight, he progressed solely by the use of his wings, which he unfolded to their limit and employed to great advantage, taking long but hurried backward strokes and more rapid forward strokes.

This feat we admired considerably, in view of the facts that he had probably never dived before and that his wings were still too weak to support him in flight. He did not rise to the surface until, after several seconds, we discontinued the chase for fear of asphyxiating him. During his underwater swim he exhaled only two or three very small bubbles of air.

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

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----- THE FLICKER -----

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At the regular monthly meeting of the Minnesota Bird Club, November 8th, 1934, Mr. W. J. Breckenridge, Associate Curator of the University Museum of Natural History, gave a resume of the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, which was held this year in Chicago at the Field Museum during the week beginning October 22nd.

Mr. Breckenridge reviewed a number of the more important papers which had been read, told something about the many eminent ornithologists' in attendance, and all in all succeeded admirably in making his entire audience wish it had also been present. Dr. T. S. Roberts, Director and Mr. William Kilgore, Curator of the Museum, were the other University of Minnesota members of the Union who attended the Chicago meetings.

THE CERULEAN WARBLER

by C. C. Prosser

The Cerulean Warbler was first reported from Linwood Lake, Anoka County, in 1933, by Douglas Campbell. Milton Thompson reported their return to that location this spring.

On a ridge several hundred feet deep, extending a half mile along the lake, the writer found the Ceruleans present in large numbers when he first investigated the area early in June. The ridge is covered with basswoods, and a marked preference for these trees was displayed by the birds. Many hours of careful search failed to disclose a nest, but the more the habits of the birds were observed the more convinced I became that when the nest was found it would be in one of the basswoods.

True to expectations, on June 13th a feeding female Cerulean was seen to enter a clump of leaves in a basswood, from which she did not reappear, and the search was ended. The nest was on a horizontal limb about thirty-five feet from the ground and ten feet out from the trunk; it contained one egg. Three more nests were found during the month and all of them were located in basswoods. The second was found on June sixteenth by several members of the Minnesota Bird Club, and contained a large young bird and two eggs. Mr. Breckenridge obtained some photographs of this nest and the feeding of the young bird out of the nest. The nest and eggs were collected for the University Museum.

On June twenty-fourth the writer, together with Milton Thompson, watched a female stripping bark fiber from a dead tree and located the half-finished nest on a horizontal limb fifty feet from the ground. Three days later, the last nest was found by Douglas Campbell and the writer; this nest was fully sixty feet from the ground. The female was carrying food to the nest and later went on it, evidently brooding very young birds.

The nest of the Cerulean Warbler is placed on top of a limb, in a crotch, or among a clump of leaves, and is constructed of shredded wood fibers. The outside is covered with bits of birch-bark, gray lichens, and eggs and cocoons of insects, all held together with spider webs. In places it appears to be glued, so closely is it woven. The inside of the nest, dark brown in color, is lined with fine strands of bark.

Apparently the female assumes the greater part of the responsibility of nidification, incubation and feeding. Mr. Breckenridge saw the male feed the young bird while he

was photographing them, and in August I saw a male who apparently had complete charge of a juvenile, as no female was seen on this occasion, although I followed these two birds for nearly an hour. However, during several hours of observation, I saw the male bird at the nest only once. Late one afternoon I heard him call, a call characteristic of the full song but composed of only a few notes; and the female left the nest, which contained young birds, whereupon the male went to the nest but did not go on. I was unable to determine whether or not he was carrying food. He stayed but a moment, then continued to feed in the immediate vicinity of the nest and occasionally sang. The female returned in about five minutes and went back on the nest. On three other occasions I have watched young birds out of the nest being fed. Although a male bird was close by, all of the feeding was done by the female, so far as I was able to determine.

The female carrying food to the nest was timed, and averaged a trip every two minutes. When the young were out of the nest it was another story. Frequently the mother bird crammed juicy morsels into the ever-waiting bill of the fledgling in such rapid succession as to be almost unbelievable, gathering the insects from leaves within a few inches of the hungry infant.

The Cerulean Warbler is not a shy bird, and often seemed to be unaware of my presence; while feeding among the lower branches it frequently approached within a few feet of where I stood in the open. While the first nest was being examined, the female came close and evinced some interest in what was going on, but did not call or scold. The male did not appear.

Early in the summer the male sang constantly while feeding; one male, a timid, averaged nine and one-half songs per minute. The song, while not loud, has a quality which carries and may be heard at some distance. Each note has a distinct roll or warble.. "burr-burr-bur, bur, bur, bur, bre-e-e-e-e-e-e"---the first two sounds being very distinct, the next group more rapid and pitched one note higher, and the final group more rapid and pitched one note higher, and the final group, sliding up the scale, is delivered so rapidly that at a distance it seems to be one continuous note. A distinctive and intriguing song by this dainty little "sky-blue" warbler!

At the suggestion of Mr. Breckenridge, a basswood grove just below Taylor's Falls on the Wisconsin side of the St. Croix was visited July ninth. Back from the main highway a quarter of a mile, near a spring which bubbled out of the hillside, a lively little family of Ceruleans was found,

foraging through a linden. At Deephaven, where Mrs. Davidson saw the young birds out of the nest in 1929, they were again well represented. We may conclude from our present knowledge that wherever the combination of basswood, water and underbrush may be found in this locality, a potential nesting-site for the Cerulean exists.

On August twenty-eight the birds were still present at Linwood Lake, though apparently in greatly diminished numbers.

— Minneapolis, Minn.

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RUFFED GROUSE IN THE LIMELIGHT

by Marius Morse

What about "drumming"? With the exception of one time near the city, I had never heard anything that sounded like it, let alone seeing a grouse in action on a picked log. I shall never forget the first "drumming" I had the opportunity to observe in the woods near the Forest Experiment Station at Cloquet, Minnesota.

From a distance of about 60 feet, I was able to view the grouse through the underbrush as it performed on a rotten, moss-covered log, not far from a trail leading through a jack pine woods. I was thrilled to the bone. My pencil could not move fast enough to record the detailed description I was determined to get into my field notebook. But I did not realize that this was a mere beginning.

The night of May 10th was dark and quiet. Three of us were engaged in the pursuit of any and all snowshoe rabbits that chanced to cross our paths. With the aid of a large, five-cell flashlight, we were attempting to see just how dumb the snowshoe really was. By shining our powerful light into the eyes of a fugitive rabbit--thus blinding him--we were able to creep up from behind and make a hasty grab in the hope of possibly making a catch. At the end of an hour's time all we had to show for our efforts was a pair of skinned shins, though we did actually have our hands on the rabbits two or three different times.

We had noted, during the evening, that there were apparently quite a few grouse drumming, as we had heard the sound coming from several different directions in the woods. We paused to listen to the drumming, at definite 3-minute intervals, of a grouse that we knew to be on a log not more than 150 yards from camp. Suddenly, a bright idea flashed into our minds. Why not try our flashlight stunt on a drumming grouse? Would the bird leave its log immediately when the light was turned on? Just what would happen? How close could we approach? We conceived the idea of netting the bird while it was on the log, and in a minute we dashed for camp, secured an 8-foot pole bearing a circular net at one end, and then made for the drumming log.

The woods were hushed. We approached quietly, anxiously. When about 60 feet to the north of the log (the exact location was known), the five-cell flashlight was turned on. A powerful beam of light shone on the log, near the middle of which stood a gray-tail Ruffed Grouse--motionless, head cocked slightly, tail lowered, eyes gleaming. We scarcely dared to breathe while we waited for perhaps a

half minute, our eyes fixed upon the grouse. It moved its head to perpendicular position; the neck feathers ruffled and the crown feathers moved slowly upward. The tail rose slowly and gradually to an erect position, simultaneously spreading in a beautiful fan-shaped manner. A picture of perfect poise!

With head held high and neck stretched, the grouse suddenly maneuvered its wings forward and up. Then a slight pause and a second similar wing beat, followed by a third and a fourth, after which the wings appeared as a big blur as the "drumming" broke the silence of the forest. Soon the wing movements stopped short; the bird lowered its tail and resumed its original position.

I glanced toward my friends, then pinched myself. It was far from a dream, but we were not yet satisfied. Cautiously, we crept closer, until we were within 25 feet. The light on the grouse was brighter now, and we could see every movement distinctly as the performer moved slightly, then proceeded as before, repeating its magnificent drumming maneuvers with the high-powered flashlight still shining directly into its eyes. If we could only net the bird! A band and colored tail feathers could be attached and it would be released - a marked bird for scientific study.

One of us took the net, and slowly moved around behind the grouse, while the light remained fixed on the bird's eyes to create a blinding effect. Closer crept the net man to within 15 feet. At this point the grouse stirred, and moved to one side, uttering a subdued clucking noise. Down the log it proceeded about six feet, then with a quick hop it was on the ground. A vigorous clucking followed; then, with whirring wings, the bird rose, almost vertically, crashing into the leafy boughs of a pine, as the light followed its movements. Still bumping around, hitting twigs with its body and wings, the grouse soon disappeared, and were were unable to trace it farther.

Not discouraged in the least, we located a second drumming grouse atop a log, one end of which protruded from a mass of roots and soil about 6 foot high, forming a perfect natural blind, with several small openings in the center. The procedure with the light was repeated, but the grouse flushed before we could begin to think of using the net, probably because of the noise made as we stumbled about in the dense growth of alder which surrounded the log. However, we believed our efforts had been rewarded in having witnessed in such a novel way, at such close range, one of the most curious and remarkable performances in all bird-dom.

Several nights later, two of the same party actually succeeded in netting a drumming grouse and placing a band on its leg and colored feathers on its tail, before giving the bird its freedom on its own drumming log!

THE BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER NEAR ST. CLOUD IN 1934

by Nester Hiemenz

On May 3rd, while walking along the east side of the Mississippi River in Sherburne County, some four miles south of St. Cloud, I was greatly surprised to come upon a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. I was walking through an oak woods when I heard a sound unfamiliar to me, and tracing it to its origin I found a tiny blue-gray bird high up in the tree-tops. It was very active and never quiet, always scolding as it moved about. The notes seemed loud for so small a bird and were rather harsh and twanging, sounding to me like "chang-chang, stzang, stzang", with some higher and more twanging notes resembling "tzing-tzing". These observations were made as I followed the bird from tree to tree for about half an hour. I had hardly left this bird and gone about half a mile when I came upon a pair of them.

My next acquaintance with the gnatcatcher was made on May 25th near a small lake west of Clearwater, in Stearns County, about ten miles from St. Cloud. As I walked along a road, I observed one of the birds collecting cobwebs from the branches of a burr oak. It soon flew into a small grove of oaks, where its mate was seen, but the birds were too wary to show up their nest.

On June 14th I revisited the place where I had made my first acquaintance with this species and, although I saw three of the birds and their actions clearly indicated nesting, I was unable to locate a nest.

On June 17th Jack Hanson and I revisited this place, determined to locate a nest, even if we had to stay all day. When we got into the woods two pairs of gnatcatchers were seen. I followed one pair but they disappeared. In the meantime Jack was watching the other pair, one of which was carrying food, and just as I came up, this bird flew to the nest. We fairly shouted with joy.

The nest was saddled on a semi-horizontal branch of a burr oak, twenty-five feet from the ground and fifteen feet from the main trunk. It was a beautiful structure, about two inches high, and externally adorned with lichens. The contents consisted of two small young and three addled eggs. During the time I was examining the nest, both old birds were very close, darting at my head and fingers, and keeping up a continual scolding chatter which sounded like "chipse-chipse-chipse".

When I returned on June 22nd, both young birds left the nest as I climbed the tree.

This, I thought, concluded my acquaintance with this bird, but on September 5th I met with another on a small island in the Mississippi River along the west side of the river in Stearns County, about two miles south of St. Cloud. It was seen with migrating warblers in a patch of prickly ash and was unusually tame, allowing a close approach.

— St. Cloud, Minnesota

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ANIMALS - WILD AND OTHERWISE

by G. A. and A. F. Risser

On August 30th Ben Rogers, Bob Young, and ourselves started for the north woods, our destination being Slin Lake, about 16 miles north of Ely, where a nephew has 70 acres of virgin land (or should we say rock?) on its beautiful shores. The first three days it rained almost continuously, but even so we managed to enjoy ourselves, though it was rather difficult to do the cooking out in the rain with wet wood on an oven built of rocks and a sheet iron plate.

One afternoon Bill, the man who was directing us in making a roadway and a clearing where eventually a cabin will be built, called me, and upon reaching his side I saw, about 50 feet away, a fawn which was contentedly eating. I slowly walked toward it, and though it raised its head several times, continued to stand still. I kept walking toward it and was not more than 30 feet away when it evidently thought it was about time to wander on, which it did, but in a very sedate and undisturbed manner. I also had a glimpse of its mother, farther off in the brush, but she kept out of sight as much as possible. Another day, when we changed our camp site, I again saw a fawn, presumably the same one, within about 40 feet. At no time did it seem at all alarmed by my presence.

One morning while we were piling rocks along the shore for a landing dock, one of the boys saw a dark animal scurry up from the rocks into a brush pile. With all eyes glued on the brush pile we stealthily crept toward it until finally a mink ran out and began to travel down the shore, in and out among the rocks in a surprisingly slow and clumsy manner—at least, it seemed so after having watched a large number of agile and alert little chipmunks for many days. We gave chase, but by the time we caught up with him (with malicious intentions, due to his proximity to our very good friends the chipmunks), he had disappeared into a hole under a large rock.

One day, shortly after our noon-day dinner (we had dinner twice a day), the sun broke through the rapidly shifting clouds. So rare a visitor was he that week that we all gave a hearty cheer, and soon decided we would take the afternoon off. Two of us took a short hike through the woods, which consisted mainly of a series of unusually green, mossy spruce swamps separated by crests of huge, lichen-covered rocks. We became interested in the diversity of the mosses, lichens, ground pines, et cetera, and collected some 30 or 40 varieties which could be distinguished from each other even by

our untrained eyes. In one of the swamps we were attracted from afar by a very noisy Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. The other two of our party, meanwhile, went fishing. They also enjoyed some beautiful scenery.

After a couple of hours of this, we all got in the canoe and paddled up to the north end of the lake, hitherto unexplored as far as we were concerned. So impressive were the rocky, balsam-covered shores, dotted with an occasional already-roddened maple, that we eagerly awaited every little turn to see what it would bring us, even though it differed only in detail with what we had left behind. At one point we stopped several minutes to watch a family group of Canada Jays which were feeding on mountain ash berries. Just as we were turning around, as we reached the end of the lake, we heard a deep, low prolonged, resonant note from far within the woods. We stopped paddling to listen more carefully to this sound, which we believed was the call of a moose, having since described it to several people who are familiar with this and other animals of the north.

Our real pets were six or seven long-tailed chipmunks and three gray chipmunks which inhabited our camp site. The long-tailed chipmunk is smaller and more active than the gray chipmunk and is found only in the northern part of the state, while the latter is common throughout Minnesota.

Bill and his wife had already taught them that there was nothing to fear, and we found them very entertaining and amusing. At meal time the odor of food generally brought them all about us. We found them to be fond of bread, and they would eat out of our hands with but little trepidation. But even more than bread, they liked graham crackers and rolled oats and would eagerly fill their pouches, then scamper off to make a cache for future use. If we raised our hands while they were eating something for them, they would jump up onto our hands, and if we raised them high enough so that they were afraid to jump off, they would run up our arms and over our shoulders to get back to earth again.

Bill told us that earlier in the summer he had given them some corn and oats, and that the clever rascals had buried this, to return after they sprouted to eat the sprout, root, seed and all.

Most of all, however, they enjoyed some chocolate nut candy which we happened to have with us. For this tidbit they would scramble up my trousers legs, and at times there were four of them on my lap, arms, and shoulders at the same time. When they had eaten what I had in my hand, they would tentatively nibble at my fingers.

We had to be careful, of course, in keeping all our food covered. It was a frequent sight to see a chipmunk perched on the rim of the peanut butter jar when the top was off, eating away to his heart's content. Once one of them actually ran into a box of graham crackers and came out carrying a cracker with him.

We found that they did not mind our voices and would not stir even though we called loudly to someone at a distance. Any sudden movement, however, caused them to run away a short distance, but they were soon back for more food.

One of our little friends, and one of the tamest (if not the tamest) we called Bobby. He seemed to recognize his name and would come when called. Bobby had only half a tail and a scar on his head almost an inch long. Perhaps our mind or some other predator was responsible.

The two species were about equally tame, but we became more attached to the long-tailed chipmunks because of their exceedingly quick, active ways, even though the larger gray chipmunk is more handsome. We noticed several distinct differences in their taste for foods; for instance, the long-tailed chippies didn't care especially for cocoanut, but the gray ones craved it above everything else, and could be coaxed quite as readily with cocoanut as the others were with chocolate.

The gray chipmunks, at the beginning of a meal, would eat for a while, then fill their pouches with as much as a whole graham cracker (chewed up, of course) before running away. The smaller fellows, however, seemed to eat almost everything they could find, and when they did store some in their pouches, they never filled them nearly as full as the gray ones.

Another difference between the two was that when they nibbled on our fingers, the long-tailed rascals were far more gentle than the gray devils, one of which once chewed my thumb until it bled. This and the fact that the gray chipmunks frequently chased their smaller cousins away from the table may have also had something to do with our preference for the long-tailed chippies.

Often, during their scurries around our table, when two long-tailed chipmunks met each other, they paused for a few seconds to rub their noses together in a truly amorous fashion; then each went his separate way.

One afternoon I heard a sudden noise and just got a glimpse of a sharp-shinned hawk that had swooped down within ten feet of me trying to catch one of my little

friends for a meal. Fortunately they were on a brush pile and darted into it, thereby escaping the talons of the indignant hawk, who temporarily lost his balance and tumbled over in the brush before flying away.

One of our chief regrets at leaving this attractive place in the woods was the fact that we had to leave our little friends behind. We are looking forward to some future date when we may renew our acquaintance with them.

--- St. Paul, Minnesota

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BOOK REVIEWS

BIRD PORTRAITS IN COLOR, by Dr. T. S. Roberts, was officially released to the public September 1st, but already it has met such a gratifying response that three weeks before the Christmas holidays, when it was expected that the sales would be high, the third thousand of its sales had begun and was well on its way, according to the University of Minnesota Press, which has published the book.

The 92 full-page colored plates are the same admirable portraits of birds which illustrated Dr. Roberts', "The Birds of Minnesota", now entirely out of print and unobtainable except in the deluxe edition, of which about 200 copies are still available at the original price of \$25.00. "Bird Portraits in Color" contains an introduction and text by Dr. Roberts, descriptive of the habits, distribution, and plumage of the 295 species of birds whose portraits appear in the colored plates. To anyone who has already made the acquaintance of Dr. Roberts' inimitable style in recording his wide and varied experiences and knowledge of birds it is not necessary to recommend this new book.

For the person with a casual interest in birds, or for the school-room, the present book is in some ways to be preferred to the larger and more complete two-volume "Birds of Minnesota", because it is of convenient size to take on vacation trips, and because the wealth of material presented in the larger book has been condensed and presented with the needs of the general reader in mind.

The book is sold in two forms, which differ only in the type of binding. In the flexible cloth binding the price is \$2.50; in the attractive library binding it is \$3.50. The loose plates are also sold, together with the index, but without text or introduction, at \$1.50.

-ooOoo-

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS, by Roger Tory Peterson, is described on the publisher's cover as "a bird book on a new plan", and that it certainly is.

There are many excellent bird-manuals on the market at present which have sections on "Field-marks", or aids to the identification of birds in the field, but here is a book which has that for its sole purpose, a purpose which it fulfills very well. Almost all of the birds found in eastern North America are illustrated in black - and - white,

and special attention is given to the features which are especially helpful for field identification. There are four colored plates, which portray in small colored figures over 75 of the birds in groups which are especially puzzling, such as the sparrows and warblers.

The book is a small one, of convenient size to carry in the pocket on field trips, and is recommended unreservedly to the bird-student who has made sufficient progress in the study to know something about the difficulties of naming birds in the field. It is a reference book, one to be used not read from cover to cover, but for its particular purpose it is certainly unsurpassed at present.

Publishers: Houghton Mifflin Co., New York and Boston  
Price \$2.75. Pp xxi plus 167.

--- Gustav Swanson  
Minneapolis, Minn.