

THE FLICKER

VOLUME 19

MARCH, 1947

NUMBER 1



Published Quarterly by
THE
MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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The Flicker

Organ of the *MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION*

Published Quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

THE FLICKER is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Dues for all members, \$1.00 per annum, should be paid in advance to the treasurer.

All articles and communications for publications and exchanges should be addressed to the editor.

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Observations on Western Birds

by

Don L. Jacobs

The shrill cry of an osprey as it banks and power-dives into the cold turbulent Yellowstone River in pursuit of a trout, swarms of darting, quarrelsome broad-tailed hummingbirds indifferent to our presence as they sip nectar from scarlet lobelias in Zion Canyon, a flock of dusky grouse suddenly infiltrating in the early morning into our Black Canyon of the Gunnison camp, and many more equally stirring events highlighted the ornithological chapters of our recent trip through the West. I shall attempt to relate some of our most interesting observations in approximately chronological order so that you may imagine yourself retracing our route. It should be borne in mind that the trip was not an ornithological expedition; our objectives were chiefly geological, but occasionally archeological or general in nature. In addition we recorded observations on mammals and on the vegetation. In retrospect I can think of no way in which I would like to have changed the trip other than allowing more time. My wife and I are indebted to Junior F. Hayden with whom we rode for making our participation in the trip possible. We were gone seventeen days, drove almost four thousand miles and entered ten states. Our bird list included a total of 126 subspecies, 61 of

which I had not seen in the wild before. Peterson's FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRDS proved invaluable. We also obtained a check-list of the birds of Yellowstone Park which proved useful.

Late in the afternoon of August 21, 1946, we headed west from Minneapolis and began our observations almost immediately. Near Chanhassen we encountered a loose flock of about 50 migrating nighthawks flying due south. They were flying in bright sunlight and maintained a straight course with no evidence of feeding.

Our birding was soon curbed by darkness but we drove on through the night and by dawn were nearing the Bad Lands. Sharp-tailed grouse and partridge were feeding along the road; marsh hawks and a ferruginous rough-legged were out hunting; and meadowlarks, unidentified sparrows, and prairie horned larks were everywhere.

At the Bad Lands we were welcomed by a pair of arctic towhees and numerous magpies as we gave our limbs a much needed stretching. In one of the prairie dog towns which we examined we noted a burrow which was undoubtedly occupied by a burrowing owl. Several fresh pellets lay at the entrance. One contained feathers, hair, and what

appeared to be the jaw of a young prairie dog.

As we crossed Wyoming we began to take stock of the roadside birds. Lark buntings which were at first new and exciting soon became as commonplace as horned larks. Sparrow hawks were unusually abundant throughout the open country of Wyoming as they proved to be in the states to the south as well. Sometimes four or five were seen along a single mile of highway. The large bold sage hen was seen frequently through central Wyoming but it appeared to be most abundant near Gillette where we stopped for the night. In that vicinity we encountered several groups of three or four as well as many singles and the highway was well spotted with corpses. As many as eight traffic victims were counted in a single mile of highway.

The following day's notes include only one avian observation, a flock of 18 western willets in a shallow puddle near Greybull, Wyoming, but the day was far from dull. We crossed the Big Horns continued west through Cody and entered the Absarokas through the startlingly picturesque gorge of the Shoshone River. The igneous walls of the gorge are steep, high and colorful orange-red rocks clothed with moss, lichens, and slender conifers in the crevices. By evening we had entered Yellowstone but the birds were already at roost. Not so, however, for a yellow-haired porcupine, that we had to dodge. and numerous pale gray deer mice which scampered across the road.

The next day at Yellowstone gave us just enough of a sample to make us wish we could spend two weeks instead of two days there. At least four osprey nests were perched in full-view on needle-like pinnacles in the canyon. The young from three of the nests were flying but frequently returned to perch. The young in the fourth were still un-

able to fly but they exercised vigorously and set up a clamor when one of their parents rose to the nest with a trout from the turbulent, green river below. Their thin, high-pitched cries echoed through the canyon.

The rare and graceful trumpeter swans are scattered in pairs through much of the park but most of them are in relatively inaccessible ponds and lakes. At least one pair, however, is almost always in view from the road at Swan Lake. This bird is on the increase but at a rate that is so slow as to still be of concern to bird-lovers.

Among the birds which we first saw in Yellowstone, but encountered quite frequently later, are Clark's nutcracker, mountain bluebird, Swainson's hawk, red-shafted flicker, raven, violet-green swallow, cliff swallow, long-tailed chickadee, mountain chickadee, and Rocky Mountain jay (a race of the Canada jay). The great gray owl and pink-sided junco were seen only at Yellowstone, and both in very picturesque surroundings. The juncos were in company with playful pine squirrels in the pine fringe around a geyser basin. The owl was perched on a rock in full view of a small lake that mirrored the sunset. Two huge bull moose stood facing each other on the shore of the lake.

Our Yellowstone list also included many species that are common in Minnesota, but in most cases there are subspecific differences between the birds of the two areas as for example the following western subspecies: western red-tailed hawk, western mourning dove, western robin, Pacific and Howell's nighthawks, western chipping sparrow, desert horned lark, pale goldfinch, thick-billed redwing, white-rumped shrike, western crow, etc. In some cases, however, no subspecific differences have been recognized as for example in the following: eastern yellow warbler, eastern sparrow hawk,

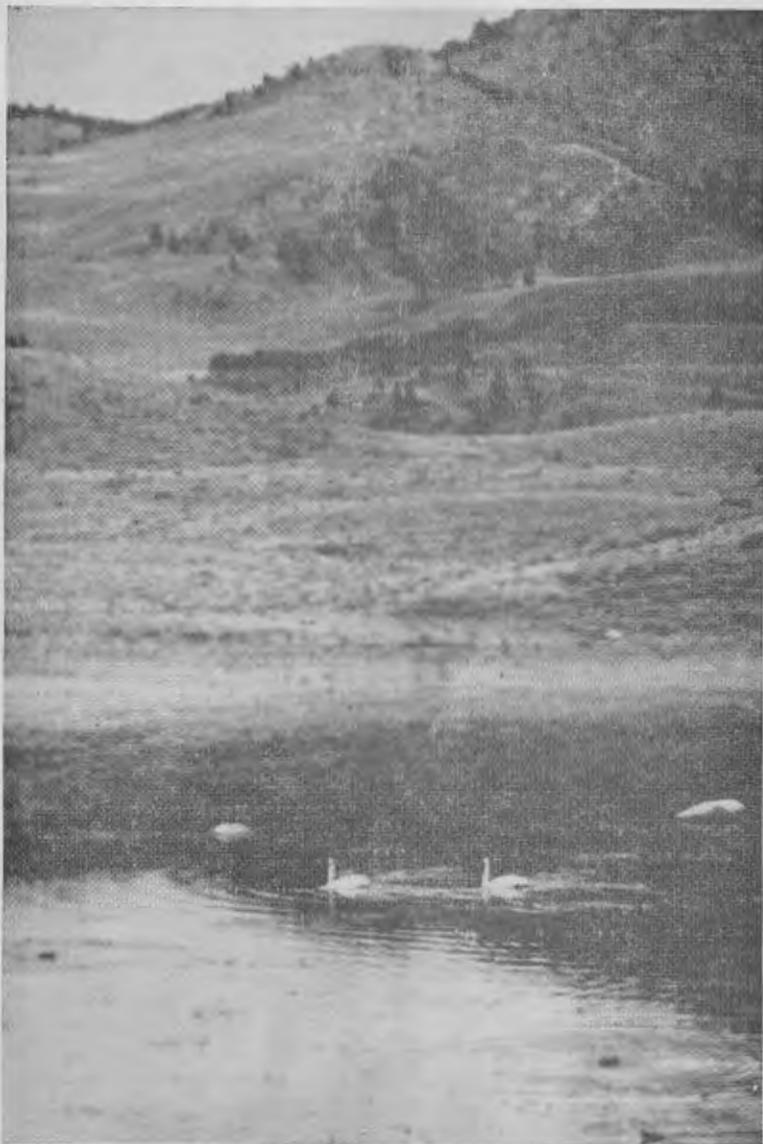


Photo by Junior F. Hayden

TRUMPETER SWANS AT HOME IN YELLOWSTONE

March, 1947

killdeer, coot, Canada goose, mallard, many other water fowl, etc.

Frustrated by so short a stay but compelled by a rigorous schedule, we rolled down out of Yellowstone and turned our gaze ahead once more. We skirted the massive snow-capped Grand Tetons, drove through the Snake River valley, and stopped at Afton. That night I heard a screech owl behind our cabin. It was identifiable with the eastern race but quite distinct, chiefly due to the lower pitch and more interrupted nature of the call. The next morning I noted that the western wood pewee was very common in the lawn trees of the town.

Near Ogden, Utah, we stopped to photograph the Devil's Slide, a spectacular pair of parallel dikes. Occasionally we saw robins and they seemed peculiarly out of place amid the strange scrubby vegetation and often rugged terrain. At Salt Lake City we made a late afternoon visit to the Great Salt Lake. It grew dark before we were able to make many observations but we were quite surprised to see killdeers probing in the briny mud, perhaps for pickled grubs. There were numerous tracks of shorebirds along the shore and ring-billed gulls hovering over the water.

The next day as we continued south from Salt Lake City we were suddenly surprised to see the fabulous Big Rock Candy Mountain loom up ahead of us. It was more like a giant marble cake, however. Bird observations grew scanty as we passed through more and more picturesque country. We wove our way through the brilliant Red Canyon and finally arrived at the rim of Bryce. Here an ornithological event that was almost as startling as the gaudy, sculptured badland that filled the amphitheater below awaited us. As we stood at the rim peering down in amazement I heard a swishhh that sounded like the

flight of a well-feathered arrow. I looked up in time to see what looked like a tiny jet-propelled plane bearing down on us. A few yards above us it banked, shot between the trees, turned out over the canyon again, and continued with a series of spectacular gyrations that frequently brought it near us. It seemed to be propelled by some hidden force as it moved with amazing speed on set wings. It was a white-throated swift, the most beautiful as well as one of the speediest of its tribe.

We were soon on our way again and arrived in Zion Canyon late that night. The tortuous road down the wall of the canyon held little charm in the dark, but the clear blue sky and brilliant sunlight of the following morning revealed the massive canyon walls in all their splendor. There, as might be expected, we found the canyon wren as well as the broad-tailed hummingbirds referred to in the introduction. Turning our gaze skyward we saw turkey vultures ominously soaring above Angel's Landing emphasizing the immovable, somber beauty of the setting. Several species of small lizards were common on the floor of the canyon. The red-shafted flicker and several other birds previously encountered were also present here.

With many backward glances we "climbed" out of the canyon and headed out across the sagebrush desert of northern Arizona bound for the north rim of the Grand Canyon. As we neared our goal we ascended through scrubby nut pines and junipers into a luxuriant forest of spruce and fir and finally to ponderosa pine at the summit of the Kaibab Plateau. Here we got our first view of the "big ditch", and here we found ourselves surrounded by the gorgeous Steller's jay, amusing and confiding little pygmy nuthatches, gray-headed juncos, Audubon's warbler, and Macgillivray's warbler as well as many

other birds that have already been mentioned. Wild flowers filled the meadows and open forest with a riot of color. But our stay in this memorable "garden" was soon cut short by Father Time. The next morning we slid down out of the cool Kaibab Forest and onto the hot desolate desert again. Our next destination was the south rim of the Canyon which was only 18 miles south of us "as the crow flies", but since we were not crows we had to traverse more than 200 miles of desert in order to utilize the nearest bridge across the canyon and reach our goal.

As we climbed the plateau to the south rim we stopped to peer into the deep, narrow canyon of the Little Colorado River. There we encountered the white-winged dove and once more saw the white-throated swift. We found that at the south rim as on the north rim there was a profuse array of wild flowers, but there were several new species here. The next morning I heard a series of chipping calls behind our cabin so went out to investigate. It was a roving band of friendly lead-colored bush-tits. Their actions closely resembled those of chickadees. That morning Eldeen and I began our eleven-mile trek on foot down Bright Angel Trail to Phantom Ranch on the floor of the canyon. En route we saw the spurred towhee, western tanager, numerous western gnatcatchers (very similar to the blue-gray gnatcatcher), olive-sided flycatcher, and Say's phoebe. The last species puzzled us considerably. It is about the size of the eastern phoebe but has rusty underparts that seem brightest on the flanks. We had seen the bird several times before without identifying it. Each time it was in a rocky desert or desert-shrub area that was difficult for us to associate with a phoebe, and it was more shy than the eastern species. Its flycatcher habits as it sallied out after insects from a perch

on a boulder finally led to its identity. The last half of our jaunt was in a rain that hampered birding but was very refreshing and brought many little red-spotted toads from their retreats. We collected one of these and "he" is still happily ensconced in one of our terrariums in spite of many hardships.

When we reached the muddy Colorado we were surprised and dismayed to find that the trail turned up again. We finally crossed the Kaibab bridge, however, and soon after stumbled into the picturesque Phantom Ranch nestled in the side canyon of Bright Angel Creek. A huge supper, a hot shower, and a good night's sleep revived our spirits and the next morning with our muscles still sore we started up the steep Kaibab Trail. Fortunately I had been able to reduce my heavy pack to about 20 pounds of essential camera equipment, food, and water by enlisting the mule riders to carry my excess to the top for me. There is no water supply along the trail and this time there was no rain and few clouds. Consequently our interest in birds waned. We did, however, note white-winged doves, 2 goshawks, a prairie falcon, and some unidentified sparrows in addition to numerous lizards, rock squirrels, and chipmunks. Completely exhausted and with legs cramped we reached the rim in the early afternoon whereupon we went to bed and slept till supper time. Before leaving the next day we saw one of the beautiful Abert's squirrels in front of our cabin, and later a golden eagle swooped low over us.

We had reached the turning point in our journey and were soon back in the desert heading eastward. We visited Sunset Crater, Petrified Forest, and the Painted Desert all of which were fascinating from the geologic and scenic viewpoints but little new was added to our bird records. Just north of Shiprock, New Mexico, we noted several

birds along the highway that fitted the description of Belding's plover most closely, but this is probably too rare a bird to identify positively without collecting it.

We soon crossed into Colorado and climbed up onto the Mesa Verde which to our surprise marked one of the highlights of the long trip. This was the only place that we saw the phainopepla, a bird which looks like a dark gray cardinal. The aristocratic looking, purplish-blue, crested Stellar's jay as well as the more drab, uncrested pinon jay were numerous. Few new species were added but the mesa seemed to teem with bird life. As I was examining a surface pueblo ruin a turkey vulture flew over head. Without wavering in flight it disgorged several large particles. Possibly its last meal was even too rotten for a vulture or perhaps it was just bones. We camped out on the mesa that night (as we did several other places en route), and found the most elaborate accommodations that we had ever encountered including hot showers, laundry tubs, pebble-free tent sites etc. Add to these things the fascinating cliff dwellings nestled in picturesque gorges and you will understand our elation.

Time urged us back to the highway once more and we headed toward the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River. We proceeded over cool mountain passes amid grand scenery and finally were peering into a deep gorge with almost perpendicular walls similar to the canyon of the Little Colorado but

out into igneous rather than sedimentary rocks. We again camped out but with quite primitive quarters. The next morning we found our camp populated by a flock of dusky grouse as well as many other birds, cottontails, chipmunks, etc. They all seemed puzzled as they examined us.

From here we proceeded quite steadily homeward. Near Boulder, Colorado, we noted numerous large flocks (several hundred in a flock) of Franklin's gulls milling about and feeding in the fields. As we neared Scottsbluff a prairie falcon swooped across the road in front of us. Its manner of flight was graceful and extremely rapid. Early the next morning as we prepared to leave Scottsbluff we became aware of huge flocks milling about in the overcast sky as they passed toward the south. They proved to be Franklin's Gulls. Possibly a hundred thousand or more passed over as we watched. They were in groups of from one to several thousand.

From Scottsbluff on we stopped only for gas until we reached home about 24 hours later. The last interesting observations were made near Alliance Nebraska, where marshes and roadside ponds are abundant. We recorded numerous waterfowl, shorebirds, etc. Among the more interesting were an avocet, sandhill crane, black-bellied plover, and night heron.

Thank you for your company and I hope you enjoyed the trip.—Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The deadline for the June issue of The Flicker is May 10. The editor would appreciate getting the material as early as possible.

Winter Bird Counts, 1946-47

compiled by

Harvey L. Gunderson

The 1946-47 bird census conducted by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union recorded a total of 45 species and 3,549 individuals. The number of species seen last year was greater (47) but the number of individuals seen this year was greater, even though several organizations reported bad weather conditions, which postponed the censusing for several days, or otherwise hindered observation. The Minneapolis Audubon Society in its report stated, "Rain sleet and snow with a stiff breeze and extremely poor road conditions forced the nine observers in three groups to discontinue after thirteen hours and thirty miles (total time and distance for three groups)." The St. Cloud Bird Club reported, "...and then waited for balmy weather from the south which didn't come. A few of us determined to look up some birds. We covered a much smaller area than usual." The Duluth Bird Club wrote, "...but severe weather prevented out of door activity delaying some counts till the first days of January."

Northern species were reported more frequently this year than last, while last year's list had more summer residents which had remained. Birds reported this year but not last year were: pied-billed grebe, golden eagle, great grey owl, prairie horned lark, Canada jay, Hudsonian chickadee, brown thrasher, golden-crowned kinglet, northern shrike, pine siskin, red crossbill and white-winged crossbill. Birds reported last year but not this year were: Cooper's hawk, American rough-legged hawk, marsh hawk, Wilson's snipe, screech owl, snowy owl, eastern king-

fisher, Bohemian waxwing, eastern meadowlark, rusty blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, cowbird, purple finch, song sparrow and Lapland longspur. Some of the birds appearing in the latter list were known to be here, even though they were not reported in any census figures.

The results of the winter bird census are tabulated in a table following the brief accounts of individual census trips.

Duluth:

Seven field trips were included in the column for the Duluth Bird Club. These were over a period from December 22, 1946 to January 5, 1947. A total of 20 species and 707 individuals were seen.

December 22: Minnesota Point including beaches and pine ridges; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 8 miles on foot; wind, south from 5-10 mph.; 1-4 inches of snow; observer: Miss Lakela.

December 28 and 29: Duluth Harbor, shore of Lake Superior to French River; observers: Ralph Boeder and Joel Bronoel.

December 25: East Duluth, Congdon Valley to 43rd Avenue and to East Boulevard; 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; 9 miles on foot; fresh snow, stopped snowing toward noon, bright sunshine, 15 degree, wind and drifting snow; observer: Miss Lakela.

December 26: Leif Erickson's Park, head of Chester Park, Congdon Park to 34th Avenue East, East Boulevard to Lester River and Lake Superior; 7:25 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; slight northwest wind, sky overcast, temperature -14 de-

grees; observer: Sam Cox.

January 4, 1947: Hunter's Park; 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; 10-15 degrees, medium wind, deep snow, clear; observers: Mrs. Arthur Roberts and Miss Hulda Adams.

January 5, 1947: West Duluth, Boulevard toward Fond du Lac; 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; observer: O. A. Finseth. **St. Cloud:**

January 4, 1947: Mayman Fruit Farm and a stretch of roadway beyond it; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 15 degree with wind, clear; 13 species and 157 individuals reported. **St. Cloud Bird Club.**

Minneapolis:

December 27: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Theodore Wirth Park, Minnesota River valley, Purgatory Creek; temperature 22-24 degree, rain, sleet, and snow with a stiff breeze and extremely poor road conditions forced the nine observers in three groups to discontinue after 13 hours and 30 miles; 20 species and 910 individuals were seen; observers: Miss L. M. Aler, Miss Anna Johnson, Mrs. G. R. Magney, Mrs. C. R. Nelson, Mrs. C. R. Proctor, Mrs. E. D. Swedenborg, Mrs. J. A. Thompson, Mrs. P. D. Tyron, Mrs. R. H. Wells. **Minneapolis Audubon Society.**

December 29: Cedar Creek Bog (Anoka and Isanti Counties), an area three miles wide and seven miles long, thickly wooded deciduous and coniferous woodland except for open area

along roads; 10:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.; clear, temperature -5 degrees to 5 degrees, wind, northwest, 10 mph.; total seen, 19 species and 364 individuals; observers: Lewis Barrett, W. J. Breckenridge, Mrs. A. D. Corniea, Byron E. Harrell, Don Jacobs, Sam McIver, Theodora Melone, Lyman Newlin, Horace Paul. **Minnesota Bird Club.**

December 28: Camden to Anoka on both sides of the Mississippi River; 20 degrees with light snow falling; 16 species and 184 individuals seen; observers: Lewis Barrett, Brad Gilbert, Helen Towle, Florence Nelson, Mrs. Edith Kees, Judy Kees, Mary Sue Bruner, Byron Harrell, Mrs. Henry G. Pratt, John Pratt, Joel Reisinger, B. E. Jannsen, Milton Thompson, and Vera Sparkes. **Minneapolis Bird Club.**

St. Paul:

The two field trips of the St. Paul Bird Club are tabulated in one column. Total number seen was 25 species and 927 individuals.

December 28: vicinity of Lake Vadnais; 22 species and 329 individuals were observed; observers: A. B. Jameson, Sheila Jameson, Bob Keenan, L. C. Lustig, Tom Meyer, Jack Olson, Brother Pius, Robert Walsh, A. C. Ros-enwinkel.

December 29: South St. Paul to Hastings; 18 species and 598 individuals seen; observers: Clare L. Johnson, George Anderson, Madora Sanford, Dorothy Geddes, William H. Longley.

	Duluth Bird Club	St. Cloud Bird Club	Minnesota Bird Club	Minneapolis Bird Club	Minneapolis Audubon Soc.	St. Paul Bird Club	TOTAL
Pied-billed Grebe					1		1
Mallard					1	132	133
Black Duck						12	12

American Golden-eye	35			21		172	228
American Merganser	5			2		85	92
Eastern Goshawk	1					2	3
Golden Eagle				1			1
Ruffed Grouse	6			1			7
Ring-necked Pheasant	1			9	14	4	28
Glaucous Gull	2						2
Herring Gull	150						150
Great Horned Owl				1			1
Barred Owl						1	1
Great Gray	1						1
Pileated Woodpecker				1	2		3
Red-bellied Woodpecker						4	4
Hairy Woodpecker	5	2	6	4	5	2	24
Downy Woodpecker	25	1	3	7	11	6	53
Prairie Horned Lark						4	4
Canada Jay		2					2
Blue Jay	7	1	1		7	9	25
Eastern Crow				3		1	4
Black-capped Chickadee	29	24	74	40	44	96	307
Hudsonian Chickadee			3			4	7
White-breasted Nuthatch			9	5	22	4	40
Red-breasted Nuthatch			8				8
Brown Creeper			1	1	6	6	14
Brown Thrasher						1	1
Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet					3	8	11
Northern Shrike	1						1
Starling	61	1			35	56	153
English Sparrow	50	12	3	212	216	90	583
Red-winged Blackbird					500	75	575
Bronzed Grackle	2						2
Cardinal		2			12	2	16
Evening Grosbeak	141					5	146
Pine Grosbeak	117					2	119
Redpoll	3	40	200	150		85	478
Pine Siskin		2					2
Goldfinch		30	1	11		31	73
Red Crossbill			8				8
White-wing Crossbill			13				13
Slate-colored Junco		4	4	1	22	10	41
Eastern Tree Sparrow			27	15	1	28	71
Snow Bunting	65	36					101
TOTAL	707	157	364	484	910	927	3549

—Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Shorebirds of Summer

by

William H. Longley

After a springtime drought, June came to South Dakota with bleak skies and tropic-like rainstorms. The low-growing prairie trees bent even lower under the pressure of the winds, but they prospered nonetheless with the moist weather. The water-lines rimming the margins of the prairie pot-holes widened and pushed back into the rushes and weedy edges again. Then the last of the vagrant shorebirds flew to find better feeding and breeding grounds.

At mid-June only the spotted sandpiper—"teeter bird"—remained, bobbing at the water's edge; above the moist meadowland a willet flashed vivid black and white wings now and then over the heads of human intruders; a marbled godwit, startled into flight by the willet's horrified protestation, thrust his lengthy beak ahead into the wind of the upland. Only these few were left from the huge spring flocks, for the waters of the pot-holes and of the big marsh stood high, leaving no mud-flats or sand-spits for the probing beaks of most sandpipers, and anyway most of them were far to the North on family business.

It was at this time that the willet, watchdog of the plains, became most evident. It could not be passed unnoticed. Not for a minute tolerating the presence of a person in its domain, it rose up into the air to call down threats upon the heads of anyone venturing into the grassy knolls. It frequently arose two hundred yards distant, remained at a safe distance, shouting "kick-it, kick-it, kick-it" or "kill-it, kill-it, kill-it" to its mate or to

the entire countryside. During this season and when so engaged, the willet possessed a singular personality because of its striped wings and irritating voice; yet, at other times it may be just another large sandpiper, gray-backed and white-breasted. If, on the plains, there is heard a whip-poor-will song, a moment's reflection may be needed to recall that it is only the song, "pill-will-willet", set to a whip-poor-will cadence.

One day such a song echoed across a pond which I passed on my way to work. A week later a young willet, killdeer-size, ran into hiding at the pond's edge when the car approached, and an adult bird came to the road to lure the car away. I searched a while for the youngster and to see if there were more than one, but I soon left, fearing the old bird might burst a blood vessel in rage. For several days thereafter, the bird greeted all cars on that road past the pond with a fury and indignation.

One other bird of the shorebird family did appear, I recall—I had almost forgotten it. At the edge of the road, so close that it seemed the car would pass over it, stood a bird which apparently was a young bird because it did not fly as the car passed. A young pheasant, or better a young godwit, I thought and stopped the car to make certain. When I walked back and stooped to pick it up, it flew hurriedly away—a fully grown, much surprised upland plover, as much surprised as I.

Only these, and nothing more in the way of shorebirds, were there until at the beginning of July a shallow slough,

an acre in extent just beyond the dam at the south end of the big marsh, became alive again with birds. Receding waters had then uncovered the muddy shore, and footprints of shorebirds once more became impressed there. Whether the few flocks and few individuals that came to the slough were remnants of the spring flocks, or whether they had already returned from the breeding grounds, is unanswerable, but it seemed that the lone long-billed dowitcher, the trio of little "peeps", the nine lesser yellow-legs which fed there in the early days of July in company with a godwit and a Wilson's phalarope had stayed right through, never having gone farther north at all.

As July wore on, the shorebird assemblage increased at the little slough. Unsuspecting, they paid little heed when approached if one held close to the knee-deep 3-square rushes and slender cattails. Killdeers fed on shore amid the sparse smartweed, the blue-flowered mints, and the arrow-leaf with white blossoms. Closest to shore, groups of the smallest sandpipers—least and semipalmated—stood silently or probed unhurriedly for food. Now and then the little bunches sped in flight in uncertain, always changing direction, to return dipping down as if alighting in the very center of the pond only to swing back to the shore to plunge to the ground abruptly. Keeping pace with the erratic little ones was a Baird's sandpiper.

Quite in contrast to the "peeps", the yellow-legs—greater and lesser—were neither as unsuspecting nor as nervous. Individuals were sprinkled sparingly about the pond. At sight of possible danger their heads jerked, quickly up and quickly down, a pause between each jerk. Whatever the purpose of that action, it served at least to draw attention to themselves, but one could not be long unmindful of the yellow-

legs' presence anyway because of their interminable calling "tew-tew-tew" which once begun was seldom silenced. Occasionally one yellow-legs lifted wings high, as if testing them, flew a few yards, and carefully folded the wings back against his body—much unlike the sudden group-flight of the "peeps". To the credit of the greater yellow-legs was the fact that they were more considerate of the ear of the audience than the lesser. They were in every way more sober than their lesser brothers; they were slower to fly, less anxious in voice, more leisurely awing, and even more meticulous in feeding. Both of the yellow-legs were fastidious feeders, choosing each bit carefully most often from the surface. Indeed, their mincing manner served to separate them from the stilt sandpiper which moved in a flock, racing each other for each particle of food; they grabbed right and left like chickens after a handful of grain. The stilts, too, more often than not waded belly-deep while the yellow-legs exposed the longest portion of their yellowlegs. Knowing these characters of action and shape made it unnecessary to look closely for the heavily barred breast of the stilt or to notice whether or not the bird's legs were yellow.

In and around the other birds floated Wilson's phalaropes. Occasionally one walked across a shallow spot. While they floated, their proud, arched necks dabbed to either side as their needle-bills gleaned from the ripples pushed out by their own little bodies. Fairy ducks they have been called, but their fine, black bills belie the name. Their whiteness, their delicateness, and the clouds reflected on the water often caused the onlooker to look twice or to overlook them. They made no sound. If the yellow-legs were too noticeable, the phalaropes were indeed the other extreme.

Another quiet bird was there, the long-billed dowitcher. Strung out across the pond like two or three rows of pickers, a flock of dowitchers whiled the time away, some half-asleep, some belly-deep in water slowly probing out-sized bills up to the hilt. The heads of those at rest sagged down as if under the weight of the long bills. This quiet manner of standing in groups characterized the dowitchers. In line with the dowitchers stood seven evenly brown marbled godwits, as inconspicuous as their great size permitted. One was enjoying a siesta—he stood fast asleep, one-legged and headless, as though he had grown tired standing in line. His godwit companions were not overly active either but in bored silence gazed soberly over the smaller birds.

At the far end of the pond a ridiculous bird entered the scene. It was a "giraffe of the sandpiper world", so much like a giraffe, it seemed, that it must even be mute! It straightened its long bluish legs, extended its long pink neck and displayed its long upturned bill. It was a bird, long in every respect—an avocet.

But the scene at the little slough was far too peaceful to persist long. The yellow-legs and willet cried warning. One, two, a few at a time they rose protesting to fly out over the fields. The stilt sandpipers in a flock jumped up and careened through the air, voicing soft, throaty sounds. A few startled killdeer, a spotted sandpiper, a solitary sandpiper, a group of pectoral sandpipers, each kind pursuing its own course from danger moved through a skyful of weaving, rasping Forster's terns and straggling black terns. While all confusion reigned, the feeding dowitchers lifted their heads, the resting dowitchers withdrew heads from beneath wings and blinked, the godwits craned their necks. Then the

"peeps" in a body dashed off excitedly, returned once, then went again. Finally the godwits and dowitchers gave up, and every bird on the pond picked up his feet and left, helter-skelter.

The water of the pond receded, sucked up by sun and earth, laying bare widening shores of mud as summer advanced. The pond had been a temporary thing, a riot of abounding life for a while. The chains of raccoon tracks imprinted in the softness of the mud at the perimeter constricted in lessening circles, until there no longer was enough water to attract a coon, and until there no longer was any water at all. Then the tracks of bird and beast hardened, brick-hard, and the dust of the prairie sifted into the tracks and covered them. Where once had been a pond only a black patch of clay lay surrounded by the greens and gold of the August vegetation.

Now, necessarily, the shorebirds forsook the dead pond and dispersed around the big marsh. From other drying pot-holes and from the North the shorebirds came to the big marsh. The numbers increased day by day. What had been a few here, a few there, soon became a hundred here, a hundred there. There were soon mixed flocks of a dozen species on all the exposed mud flats and in the shallows. A few semipalmated plovers ran about at the edge of the water, and black-bellied plovers in either fall or spring plumage were to be found near the other waders but always aloof. The dowitchers, too, were in changing plumage and remained in flocks of their own kind only. The largest flock contained well over two thousand individuals all standing shoulder to shoulder, so close together that newly arriving birds had to alight at the outer edge of the group, for there was no room within.

That was at the beginning of Sep-

tember. The big marsh was the whole show, the little slough forgotten, but soon the big marsh was lonely, too. The frosty air and the chill nights urged the shorebirds on, and when I left the marsh behind me, they were leaving too.

As I drove away, I looked back at the

black patch of prairie clay that once had been a pond, and I wondered who might be standing there next year—when the water came back and the birds came back—to count the birds and watch them. Or would anyone?

—Minnesota Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

BOOK REVIEW

AUDUBON BIRD GUIDE—EASTERN LAND BIRDS by Richard H. Pough. Doubleday and Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1946. 4 and a quarter x 7 and a quarter inches, 400 pages, 2 maps, 48 color plates by Don Eckelberry. \$3.00.

Richard Pough, of the Audubon staff, has given us the most up-to-date, complete, and fully illustrated pocket field guide to the land birds of Eastern North America ever published.

A forward of 20 pages presents information of great interest to bird students on such topics as bird names, variations in appearance, voice and song, psychology and behavior, binoculars, bird distribution, seasonal movements, economic relations, conservation, and bird clubs.

The most important feature of the book is that it has a colored picture of each of the 275 species that it covers. The 48 beautiful full-color plates in the center of the book are arranged to show diagnostic field marks to excellent advantage. Having all the pictures together makes for speed in finding the desired species. Where the sexes differ, both male and female are shown and in some cases several different plumages are shown. There are 430 full-color pictures. The accuracy of the color reproductions by the artist, Don Eckelberry, places him among our top ranking bird artists.

Since the book covers only the land birds, it will be necessary to carry two books in the field. This may prove a disadvantage and for that reason some bird students may prefer Peterson's **FIELD GUIDE**.—Severena C. Holmberg, Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

NESTING RECORDS

Each year since 1938, members of the MOU have collected general information on the nesting habits of Minnesota birds and each year these data have been published in *The Flicker*. The name of the species, number of eggs or young, date observed, location—at least to the county—and the name of the observer should accompany each observation. It is suggested that this information be placed on 3 x 5 cards, one card for each species observed. This information should be sent to the Editor or to Dr. W. J. Breckenridge by September 10. Start keeping your nesting records now.

March, 1947

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Ten Years of Winter Birds

by

E. D. Swedenborg

The following is an annotated list of birds seen in Minnesota during the months of December, January, and February, from 1937 to 1946, inclusive. It is not necessarily a complete list but was compiled from *The Auk*, *Wilson Bulletin*, *The Flicker*, *Audubon Magazine*, and in a few instances from my own records. Lack of space makes it impossible to use all records, but efforts were made to include as much of the state as possible and to use mid-winter dates whenever such dates could be found.

A similar list, covering the years 1927 to 1936, inclusive, appeared in the March, 1937, number of *The Flicker*. It listed 124 species; this one lists 122. The following species appeared in the first but not in this one: loon, horned grebe, least bittern, whistling swan, surf scoter, turkey vulture, prairie falcon, pigeon hawk, willow ptarmigan, barn owl, Richardson's owl, magpie, Carolina wren, Townsend's solitaire, ruby-crowned kinglet, northern yellowthroat, vesper sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, fox sparrow, and swamp sparrow. This makes a total of 142 species recorded during the winter months in the past twenty years.

RED-THROATED LOON. One on the river at St. Cloud, February 22, 1942, (N. M. Hiemenz).

HOLBOELL'S GREBE. One at Minneapolis, December 13, 1938, (Mrs. Frances Davidson).

PIED-BILLED GREBE. Several records in the Twin City region. St. Paul, December 29, 1940, (William Cummings and Byron Harrell); near Minneapolis,

December 27, 1946, (Members of Audubon Society).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. One on Lake Harriet at Minneapolis, December 17, 1939, (E. D. Swedenborg).

GREAT BLUE HERON. One at Newport, January, 1938, (R. A. Kortman); one near St. Paul, December 12, 1944, (Brother Hubert Lewis).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Three near St. Paul, December 26, 1939, (A. C. Rosenwinkel).

CANADA GOOSE. Five hundred near Rochester, winter of 1938-39; 100 near Shakopee, February 21, 1943, (Jack Welsh).

BLUE GOOSE. Six with the Canada geese near Rochester winter of 1938-39.

MALLARD. Present, sometimes in large flocks, in the southern part of the state each winter.

RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK. Fifteen near St. Paul, December 30, 1945, (Members of St. Paul Bird Club); six near Shakopee, February 10, 1946, (Swedenborg).

GADWALL. Six on Christmas Lake, near Excelsior, January 12, 1939, (A. D. DuBois); eight near Minneapolis, December 17, 1939, (Swedenborg).

BALDPATE. One on White Bear Lake, January 8, 1937, (R. M. Berthel); one on Lake Calhoun, December 8, 1945, (Swedenborg).

PINTAIL. At Fairmont, December 25, 1941, (Dr. G. H. Luedtke); at Minneapolis, December 10, 1944, (Swedenborg).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL. Two near St. Paul, December 28, 1941, (William H. Longley); one near Minneapolis, December 13, 1938, (Mrs. Davidson).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. Fifteen, winter of 1941-42, near Morris, (Warden Bolsted); one near Minneapolis, February 2, 1940, (Swedenborg).

SHOVELER. Near St. Paul, December 29, 1940, (Harrell and Cummings); four, December 30, 1945, (Members of St. Paul Bird Club).

WOOD DUCK. One near Fairmont, December 24, 1939, and two at same place, December 25, 1941, (Dr. Luedtke).

REDHEAD DUCK. Two on Lake Calhoun, December 10, 1944, (Swedenborg).

CANVAS-BACK. One on Calhoun, December 15, 1946, (Swedenborg).

RING-NECKED DUCK, LESSER SCAUP, GOLDEN-EYE. Present every winter into December, the golden-eye remaining all winter wherever open water is found.

BUFFLE-HEAD. At Duluth, December 26, 1943, (Dr. Olga Lakela).

OLD-SQUAW. One hundred in the Duluth region, December 27, 1942, (Lakela); several other Lake Superior records.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. Three at Two Harbors, December 22, 1938, (Lakela); five near St. Paul (Brother Hubert), January 16, 1943; one at Minneapolis, December 15, 1944, (Swedenborg).

RUDDY DUCK. One, Minneapolis, December 2, 1945, (Swedenborg).

HOODED MERGANSER. Five, Minneapolis, December 17, 1939, (Swedenborg).

AMERICAN MERGANSER. Present every winter.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. Present in the Twin City region almost every winter until the lakes are frozen over.

March, 1947

EASTERN GOSHAWK. Two near St. Paul, December 30, 1945, (St. Paul Bird Club members).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. Ramsey County, December 19, 1938, (Breckenridge and Berthel); at White Bear Lake, February 2, 1942, (Berthel).

COOPER'S HAWK. One near St. Paul, December 27, 1944 (Longley); two on December 30, 1945, Cedar Creek Bog, Isanti County, (Minnesota Bird Club members).

RED-TAILED HAWK. One, Fairmont, December 25, 1940, (Dr. Luedtke); nine, Weaver, December 21, 1941, (Dr. R. R. Keating); several Minneapolis records.

KRIDER'S HAWK. One, Root River valley, December 27, 1940, (Minnesota Bird Club members).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. Near St. Paul, February 22, 1943, (Longley and Harrell); same region, December 28, 1941, (Brother Hubert Lewis).

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. Present throughout almost every winter in the Minnesota valley near Minneapolis.

GOLDEN EAGLE. At the Cedar Creek Bog, in Isanti County, December 29, 1946, (Minnesota Bird Club members); other records near Roseau (P. O. Fryklund).

BALD EAGLE. At Dassel, February 5, 1945, (J. P. Jensen); two at Taylors Falls, winter of 1940-41, (Mrs. Hugh H. Owen).

MARSH HAWK. Fertile, winter 1941-42, (Nelson); several records near Minneapolis.

GRAY GYRFALCON. One caught in a trap at Fertile, January 15, 1940, (Martin Nelson).

DUCK HAWK. One, St. Paul, December 13, 1941, (Harrell and Longley).

SPARROW HAWK. One near Minneapolis, December 20, 1943, (Minneapolis Audubon Society members); one,

St. Paul, December 30, 1945, (St. Paul Bird Club members).

CANADA SPRUCE GROUSE. Two near Grand Marais, December 22, 1943, (Mr. and Mrs. Jacques and Wm. Kerfoot); five on Gunflint Trail, December, 1939, (C. T. Rollings).

RUFFED GROUSE, PRAIRIE CHICKEN, PRAIRIE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE, EUROPEAN PARTRIDGE, BOB-WHITE, RING-NECKED PHEASANT, CHUKAR PARTRIDGE. These native and introduced species are of course present throughout the year.

COOT. Near St. Paul, December 30, 1945, (St. Paul Bird Club members); near Minneapolis, December 8, 1945, (Swednberg).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. One at St. Paul, December 3, 1943, (Dr. Gustav Swanson).

WILSON'S SNIPE. Present every winter along the small streams that flow into the Minnesota River near Minneapolis; most unusual record, 24 individuals seen along Nine Mile Creek, January 7, 1939, (Dana Struthers).

GLAUCOUS GULL. Seen every winter for eleven years in the Duluth region.

HERRING GULL. Present every winter in the Lake Superior region (Dr. Lakela); also in the Twin City region until the annual freeze-up.

RING-BILLED GULL. Present on the park lakes and along the Mississippi River at Minneapolis and St. Paul into December each winter.

MOURNING DOVE. Several near Minneapolis, January 7, 1939, (Dana Struthers); ten at St. Cloud, December 29, 1938, (T. S. Roberts Ornithological Club); other records.

SCREECH OWL, GREAT HORNED OWL, BARRED OWL. Present throughout the year.

SNOWY OWL. One near Minneap-

olis, December 22, 1941, (Audubon Society members); numerous records for the state, winter of 1945-46.

GREAT GRAY OWL. At Roseau, winter of 1944-45, (Fryklund).

LONG-EARED OWL. Near St. Paul, December 28, 1944, (Brother Hubert Lewis).

SHORT-EARED OWL. At Stewartville, December 16, 1937, (Dr. A. F. Risser); near Minneapolis, December 30, 1943, (Breckenridge and Swanson).

SAW-WHET OWL. At Duluth, December 27, 1944, (Duluth Bird Club members); near St. Paul, January 17, 1946, (Frank Ostrowski).

HAWK OWL. One near St. Paul, February 23, 1946, (Brother Hubert Lewis).

BELTED KINGFISHER. Near Minneapolis, January 22, 1938; near Shakopee, January 10, 1943, (Swedenborg).

NORTHERN FLICKER. At Dassel, December 1938, (Jensen); several Minneapolis and St. Paul records.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. At Minneapolis, December 21, 1941, (Audubon Society members); eight near Weaver, December 21, 1941 (Dr. Keating); a few other records.

PILEATED WOODPECKER, RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, HAIRY WOODPECKER, DOWNY WOODPECKER. Permanent residents.

ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. Eleven at Glynden, Clay County, December 1, 1940, (Miss Signe Lee); one at St. Cloud, February 17, 1939, (Members of the T. S. Roberts Ornithological Club); several northern Minnesota records.

HORNED LARK. Present in the southern part of the state every winter.

CANADA JAY. One at Minneapolis, January 1, 1941, (Nordquist). Permanent resident in northern Minnesota.

BLUE JAY. Common permanent resident.

NORTHERN RAVEN. Twelve at Virginia, January 12, 1941, (Barrows); several records along the north shore, winter of 1943-44.

CROW. Present in limited numbers each winter in the southern part of the state.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. Common permanent resident.

HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE. Two in Glenwood Park at Minneapolis, winter of 1943-44; three in same park, winter of 1946-47, (Miss L. M. Aler); several records in the Duluth region.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. Two at Marine-on-St. Croix, January 1943, (Miss Edgar); one north of Minneapolis, February 12, 1945, (Breckenridge).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Common permanent resident.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. One at Duluth, January 19, 1943, (Mrs. Olin); one at Fairmont, December 24, 1939, (Dr. Luedtke); several Twin City records.

BROWN CREEPER. Present each winter in the southern part of the state.

WINTER WREN. One along Purgatory Creek, near Minneapolis, January 7, 1945, (Swedenborg).

MOCKINGBIRD. One in Minneapolis, winter of 1938-39, (Breckenridge).

BROWN THRASHER. One at Minneapolis, December 21, 1938, (Mrs. Davidson); one at Fairmont, winter of 1939-40, (Dr. Luedtke).

ROBIN. Thirty at Duluth, February 1945, (Mrs. Olin); present in limited numbers each winter in southern Minnesota.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD. One at Duluth, February 2 to February 14, 1943, (Mrs. Olin).

VARIED THRUSH. One at Duluth, February 7, 1941, and for some time after; first state record (Mrs. W. S.

Telford and Dr. Olga Lakela).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. Three at Duluth, January 11, 1943, (Miss Mary Elwell); a few St. Paul-Minneapolis records.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Three at Duluth, December 26, 1942, (Mrs. Olin); two at Cloquet, February 22, 1942, (Arnold Erickson); present almost every winter in Minneapolis, many published records.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING. Several records, winter visitant, apparently no large migration into southern Minnesota in the past ten years.

CEDAR WAXWING. About a hundred at Roseau, January 23, 1938, (Fryklund); five at Duluth, December 23, 1942, (Mrs. Olin); a few southern Minnesota records.

NORTHERN SHRIKE. One at Shevlin, December 24, 1939, (F. S. Cartwright); one at Minneapolis, December 27, 1944, (Audubon Society members); one at Minneapolis, December 21, 1946 (Swedenborg).

STARLING. Permanent resident; flocks of a few hundred birds occasionally encountered.

ENGLISH SPARROW. Common permanent resident.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK. Seven at Stewartville, December 22, 1938, (Minnesota Bird Club members); one at Minneapolis, December 29, 1945, (Swedenborg).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK. Two near Stewartville, December 23, 1939, (Minnesota Bird Club members); one at St. Cloud, January 2, 1941, (T. S. Roberts Ornithological Club).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Present in the Minnesota River valley, south of Minneapolis, every winter, flocks numbering a few hundred individuals sometimes seen.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.

One in the same section, December 1938, (Mrs. Davidson).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. A few found almost every winter with the redwings in the Minnesota River valley, several other records.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. Individuals of this species also found in these river valley flocks; one at Duluth, last week of December, 1945, (members of Lakeview Branch of the Duluth Bird Club).

BRONZED GRACKLE. A few grackles also winter with the blackbirds in the vicinity of Nicols; four at Duluth, last week in December, 1945, (members of the Lakeview Branch of the Duluth Bird Club).

COWBIRD. Cowbirds have also wintered with the blackbirds at Nicols the past few years; thirteen seen, January 11, 1942; ten on January 7, 1945, (Swedenborg); one at Weaver, Minnesota, December 21, 1941, (Dr. F. L. Keating).

CARDINAL. One at Duluth, winter of 1938-39. A quite common resident in the southern part of the state.

EVENING GROSBEAK. Present every winter in northern Minnesota; quite a few records from the southern sections of the state.

PURPLE FINCH. Rather common winter visitant in the Twin City region; permanent resident to the north.

PINE GROSBEAK. Several winter records in various parts of the state, but apparently never very numerous.

HOARY REDPOLL. Two near Duluth, last week of December, 1940, (Marius Morse).

REDPOLL. Present every winter in greatly varying numbers.

PINE SISKIN. Several records from the Duluth region and a few from other northern state sections; also four at St. Paul, December 27, 1945, (Rosenwinkel).

GOLDFINCH. Four at Duluth, January 28, 1945, (Mrs. Olin); present every winter in varying numbers in the Twin City region and throughout the southern part of the state.

RED CROSS-BILL. Several records from Duluth and the north shore of Lake Superior; eight in Isanti County, December 29, 1946, (members of Minnesota Bird Club).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. Several northern Minnesota records; thirteen seen by members of the Minnesota Bird Club at Cedar Creek Bog in Isanti County, December 29, 1946.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. Present every winter in southern Minnesota. Scores of records.

TREE SPARROW. Rather common winter visitant in southern Minnesota; sometimes seen in flocks numbering a few hundred individuals.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. An injured bird in Duluth, winter of 1945-46, (Mrs. Olin); four near St. Paul, last week of December, 1944, (Brother Lewis).

SONG SPARROW. Two, December 29, 1945; one, December 26, 1937, and February 12, 1938, near Minneapolis, (Swedenborg).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR, SNOW BUNTING. Small flocks of these two species are found in the open sections of the state every winter. Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mockingbirds in North Dakota

by

O. A. Stevens

Records of the mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) in North Dakota are rare so it was with much surprise that the writer and H. G. Heggeness found a bird in full song in a cemetery near Fargo on July 21, 1946. According to other persons, the bird had been there at least some days previous. It was not found on August 4, so must have remained in the vicinity for only a short time.

The bird spent much time on a tall statue, flying at times to monuments or trees a few rods away, or dropping to the ground to pick up an insect. On July 28, I timed it for a half hour, recording so far as possible each song phrase or call note with the following list of calls and songs used:

Arkansas Kingbird	21
Red-headed Woodpecker	20
Yellow-headed Blackbird	11
Flicker	10
House Sparrow	10
Cardinal	8
Bluebird	8
Chickadee	7
Least Flycatcher	6
Crested Flycatcher	6
Cuckoo	6
Blue Jay	5
Eastern Kingbird	4
Purple Martin	4
Killeer	4
House Wren	3
Brown Thrasher	3
Red-winged Blackbird	2
Warbling Vireo	2
Nighthawk	1
Bob-white	1
Total identified	142

Unidentified	111
Total listed	253

On July 21, a record was made for a similar period without listing the unidentified notes. Those identified were in about the same proportions with the addition of sparrow hawk, kingfisher, poorwill, crow, and Baltimore oriole.

The occurrence of poorwill and cardinal seemed of special interest, since those birds are not present here. We wondered whether the bird had brought from the south other songs which we could not recognize. From other accounts of mockingbird songs, it seems probable that the unidentified notes were chiefly original.

We saw no conflict between the mocker and other species. A pair of Arkansas kingbirds were feeding young in the edge of the circle used so much by the bird. He mimicked the various notes of the kingbird perfectly. A bird house with purple martins and house sparrows was a little farther away. Most of the other species were not in the area, at least frequently. We noted that he did not mimic the robin, goldfinch, barn swallow, chipping sparrow, vesper sparrow, Eastern kingbird, or mourning dove, all of which were frequently heard in the area. We did not detect any insect songs or other sounds mimicked.

Wood (Univ. Mich., Mus. Zool., Publ. No. 10) records a mockingbird taken on the University of North Dakota campus at Grand Forks, on November 23, 1916. Dr. N. A. Weber writes me that a specimen is there but without data attached. Mrs. Hannah R. Gray of

Wilton, North Dakota, writes me that she trapped and banded a mockingbird there on June 3, 1943. Mrs. W. E. Brentzel of Fargo tells me that she saw one in her yard May 12 and 13, 1942.

In 1938, Ralph W. Smith of Dickinson, North Dakota, wrote of seeing and hearing a mockingbird in his yard for several weeks. It was there again the following summer and verified by F. C. Butcher and F. Gray Butcher. Mr.

Smith wrote on May 17, 1939: "That bird is here again. It makes a very good imitation of the cardinal, bluebird, blue jay, and a near imitation of robin, killdeer, catbird, and many others too numerous to mention or identify." These are the only North Dakota records known to me. Wood's specimen was listed as the eastern race, and we have no other identification nor an authentic specimen.—State College Station, Fargo, North Dakota.

BIRD REPARTÉE

In my orchard tree a little gray bird*

Twittered and chirped a friendly greeting;
And this is what in fancy I heard:

"I reckon as worms is prime good eating."

Then a yellow canary—city bred—

Scoffed at the gray bird's country diction,
"And your song, old dear, is so bad," he said,
"You need voice training, that's my conviction."

The gray bird flipped a contemptuous wing:

"Is it to me advice you're giving!
Youse that don't know nothing but eat and sing,
While I help gardeners make their living!"

—Guy Atherton.

*This might have been one of the warblers, or a wren. We presume that Mr. Atherton, of the St. Paul Bird Club, can recognize a wren, but maybe couldn't think of an appropriate rhyme. The word "warbler" is so difficult to match, that he leaves the reader free to identify his own favorite "little gray bird." —The Editor.

1947 MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION MEETING

The St. Cloud Bird Club has very kindly invited the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union to conduct its annual state meeting this year at St. Cloud, Minnesota. The date set is Saturday, May 17, 1947, at the height of the warbler migration. Be sure to circle this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Seasonal Bird Report

by

Mary Lupient

The weather during November and most of December was mild and a few species of ducks lingered as late as December 11. On that date scaups, ring-necked ducks, buffle-heads, canvasbacks, besides golden-eyes and mallards were seen on Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. They were first reported on December 5 by Oscar Owre, Jr.

A census of ducks was taken by members of the Minnesota Bird Club for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, January 14 to 18, 1947. Dr. W. J. Breckenridge and John Jarosz reported 197 golden-eyes and 2 pairs of American mergansers on the Mississippi River north of Minneapolis. At Shakopee the census was taken by Lyman Newlin and this writer. Mallards numbering 217 were counted, also 6 black ducks.

About 100 old squaw ducks appeared on Lake Superior near Grand Marais on November 11, 1946. This report was by W. Babbott who writes that this is his earliest date for old squaws and that during the early thirties other species of ducks by thousands arrived in this area after the inland lakes had frozen over, but that now he sees only a few.

About 25 blue and snow geese flew over Savage, Minnesota, on December 1, 1946.

This season Hudsonian chickadees were reported at various places in and near the Twin Cities during December and January. Brother J. Pius and A. C. Rosenwinkel saw them at Lake Vadnais, St. Paul, on November 23, and several observers saw them at Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis; Lake Nokomis and Cedar Creek were two other points at which they were observed.

Only a few snowy owls were reported March, 1947

ed in Minnesota this season, five in all. Pine grosbeaks, snow buntings, and very large flocks of redpolls were seen several times.

The unusual record of a golden eagle was sent in by Mrs. A. D. Corniea, November 13, 1946. It was seen at Cedar Creek and at times thereafter two of them were observed. The last report was on January 26, 1947. Another unusual record was that of the red crossbills that were also reported by Mrs. A. D. Corniea at Cedar Creek. They stayed for several weeks. The white-winged crossbills were seen only once and in this same area.

The pileated woodpecker has been somewhat uncommon this winter, however, one was seen along the Mississippi River in St. Paul, January 26, by Miss Amy Chambers.

At Morris, Minnesota, the cardinal has stayed all winter. Sheridan S. Flaherty in a letter dated January 28, 1947, states, "I understand that it is not uncommon for you Minneapolis folks to have cardinals as winter guests, but this year for the first time in my life I have had one here daily since December 13, and cannot help telling you of this rare experience. All of the other common winter residents are here in my back yard and occasionally common and hoary redpolls are here too, but this glamour boy out-glamours them all."

January was mild but the first part of February was marked by very cold weather and strong winds. A few horned larks were seen at various places throughout December and January but up to the time of this writing there are no reports of their being here in numbers to indicate the migration has begun.—Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

NOTES OF INTEREST

WINTER GOLDEN-EYE COUNT IN MINNEAPOLIS—For several winters I have known of the presence of a considerable number of American golden-eyes wintering on the open places in the Mississippi River north of Minneapolis. These birds all seemed to fly south in the evening, and it was discovered that they gathered in a raft for the night just north of an island between the Plymouth and Broadway Avenue bridges in Minneapolis. The questions we had often been asked, just how many ducks wintered here and from how far along the river the birds gathered for the night, were finally partially answered as a result of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request for counts at the time of their 1947 nationwide winter duck census, January 14-17. A group of us from the Minnesota Bird Club undertook a bit of cooperative observing in securing a partial answer to these questions.

First as a check on how many came in and from what direction, John Jarosz and I stationed ourselves on the river bank at the rafting place at 4:30 p.m. on January 14. There was a strong west wind with a temperature of 18° F. At 4:40 p.m. small groups began dropping in from down river (south) and later the up-river group began arriving. A total of 84 birds came from the south and 46 from the north, making 130 birds in the raft that night. The rough weather made us suspicious that perhaps more might gather there on quiet nights. The following day being calm, I contacted Mr. Franke, Superintendent of the Northern States Power Company's dam at Coon Rapids, eleven miles above the roosting location. He was interested and promised to check flocks leaving the open water below the dam at dusk that evening. I stationed myself at the Minneapolis Pumping Station seven miles below the dam. My neighbor, Carl Swanson, who worked at the Northern States Power Plant two miles farther down the river promised to check some open water there at dusk. I then arranged for Harvey Gunderson and John Jarosz to check the birds as they came in to roost. That evening Mr. Franke reported the 18 birds feeding below the dam stopped feeding at 4:50 p.m., collected into a flock and soon afterwards left toward the south.

This flock was checked by me at 5:05 passing the pumping station; Mr. Swanson reported them at the Power Plant a few minutes later; and they pitched in to join the raft at about 5:10 p.m. Harvey Gunderson and John Jarosz reported 96 birds came from the south and 101 from the north, making a total of 197 birds at the rafting place that evening. Thus we know that our raft includes the birds that feed as far north as the Coon Rapids Dam. It is not yet known whether any come from farther upstream nor from how far south the birds coming from downstream travel. The present data is to be deposited with the Minnesota Bird Club records and more will be added as we secure it. Later censuses will give us something on the winter survival of the flock and next year we expect to repeat the same counts to see how these populations may vary from year to year.—W.J. Breckenridge, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

BIRDS AT THEODORE WIRTH PARK—In addition to the 12 species found in Theodore Wirth Park on the Minneapolis Audubon Society's Christmas Count on December 27, the following have been seen: ring-necked pheasant, barred owl, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, white-

breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, brown thrasher, English sparrow, cardinal, and slate-colored junco. The following other species were recorded there during the last two weeks of December: sparrow hawk, red-breasted nuthatch, Hudsonian chickadee, robin, starling, golden-crowned kinglet, pine grosbeak, purple finch, redpoll, goldfinch, and tree sparrow. In January, the great horned owl, pileated woodpecker, rusty blackbird, and evening grosbeak were added, bringing the midwinter total to 27. —Lulu May Aler, Minneapolis Audubon Society, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PINE GROSBEAKS AT SAUK RAPIDS—A number of pine grosbeaks have made their winter stop in the bushes on the grounds of the Poor Claire Monastery at Sauk Rapids. Some of the visitors at the convent on November 27, 1946, spied them and listened to their timid musical note of welcome. They seemed unafraid and flitted about in the bushes only an arm's length from their observers, who stood there watching them. Then they made their bow and, with a musical ado, they were off to another part of the grounds. —Monica Misho, St. Cloud Bird Club, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF WINTER BIRDS IN AND NEAR LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY—Making bird observations during the months of December and January in Louisville, Kentucky, gives a Minnesotan the impression that winter has taken a holiday and that spring has arrived out of season.

Scaups, black ducks, mallards, buffle-head, ring-billed and herring gulls live on the Ohio River. Everywhere there are robins, bluebirds, flickers, golden-crowned kinglets, myrtle warblers, red-eyed towhees, white-throated sparrows, and many other species that arrive in Minnesota in spring. Glamour is added to a field trip by the more unfamiliar birds such as, mockingbirds, Carolina wrens, Carolina chickadees, and the friendly tufted titmice. The Kentucky Ornithological Society has reported as many as sixty-six species on a Christmas Bird Count. The graciousness and hospitality of some of the members of this Club provided me with many happy hours of birding in a territory that is an ornithologist's paradise.

One interesting field trip was at the invitation of Miss Evelyn Schneider, librarian at the University of Louisville, and Floyd Carpenter. The purpose of the trip was to see a concentration of turkey and black vultures that usually occurs every winter in a deep gorge in Clifty Falls Park on the Indiana side of the Ohio River near the historic old town of Madison. A narrow stream has cut this deep and picturesque gorge for a considerable distance. As we drove along we stopped at points to admire the scenery and look for the vultures. Finally we could see about a hundred and twenty-five of them perched in one tree across the gorge while nearly one hundred more soared about nearby. Mr. Carpenter brought his telescope for my use and I could see the bluish grey legs and feet of the black vulture, contrasting with the reddish ones of the turkey vulture. After watching them for some time at this distance, we decided to cross the gorge and get a closer view. We climbed down the steep high bank which at first looked extremely hazardous to me, but was done without much difficulty. At this time of year the stream can usually be forded on foot, but as we walked over the slippery slabs of limestone at the edge of the water, it became apparent that at this time it would be impossible as the stream had been swollen by recent rains and was turbulent. After much scrambling, clutching at roots and one another, and a few shuddering skids backward down the wet clay wall, we climbed back up and

walked a half mile to a bridge. The trail on the opposite wall was narrow and part way down from the top. It was wet clay and covered by wet leaves and since I had on a pair of men's galoshes, five sizes too large, that had all the erratic propensities of new skis on a very inept skier, I momentarily expected to be pitched over the brink of nothing that extended many, many feet below. However, I was too excited over the prospect of seeing between two and three hundred vultures at close range to give this fact much consideration. We came quite close to them before they flew from the trees that were completely whitened by their droppings. Then the whole flock sailed in circles out over the gorge in a very spectacular manner. The turkey vultures soared gracefully on set wings, but the black vultures, though also graceful, occasionally interrupted their soaring with two or three wing beats. They formed a beautiful interlacing pattern as they soared back and forth.

It was a thrilling, unforgettable experience and I shall be eternally grateful to the companions who made it possible.—Mary Lupient, Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

EXCERPTS FROM A FLICKER DIARY—March 29, 1945, saw my first flicker this year. April 22, flicker in high log house, first time seen in house this year, few minutes later another flicker joined, then one flicker flew down and into the low log house. April 23, a flicker in the high log house and another flicker in the low log house. April 29, flicker around all day long going in and out of the high house. May 3, flicker seen mating. May 15, found egg about fifteen feet from flicker hole; don't know if it is a flicker or martin egg. May 17, 18, 19, flicker tapping all day long inside high house. May 29, saw no flicker on high house, but there was one going in and out of the low house all day. May 30, flicker throwing saw dust from low house, and seen mating. June 26, sounds like young flicker peeping when I put my ear against the pipe of the low house. June 27, listened again to peeping flicker. June 29, young flicker peeping quite loudly. July 3, removed roof from low house and saw one large baby flicker. July 29, young flicker seen clinging on high house. September 3, three flickers on house. September 24, flicker in at dusk; this is the last time seen. October 24, saw three flickers up at Lake Superior near Castle Danger. March 29, 1946, flicker back in the high log house. —J. F. Oigard, Jr. 955 W. Central Avenue, St. Paul 4, Minnesota.

CEDAR WAXWING DISMANTLES ROBIN'S NEST—On April 17, 1946, we saw a pair of robins at work building a nest in one of our boulevard trees. They continued to work on the nest for twelve days. The nest seemed to us to be unusually large.

May 10 and 11 were very cold and we wondered whether or not the brooding robin's eggs would be frosted. Three days later, on May 13, we saw both robins busy feeding their nestlings.

On May 22 we were awakened early by screaming and quarreling between blue jays and robins. We investigated and found three little robins out of the nest. They were younger than they should have been to be out; their stubby tails were only about an inch long. They were around the yard for two days. The third day one of them perched on a truck which had parked in front of the house. He did not fly when the truck drove away and the last we saw of him he was still riding the truck.

On June 28 we saw two cedar waxwings tearing the deserted robin's nest to pieces. They worked busily and carried the nesting material across the street to

a basswood tree where they built their nest. So much of the robin's nest was dismantled that it looked like a framework. The cedar waxwing started brooding July 5. Three birds were hatched. We did not see them leave the nest.

This is the first time we have ever seen one bird take another bird's nesting material to make its own nest.—Mrs. George W. Lehrke, St. Cloud Bird Club, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

IMMATURE ORCHARD ORIOLE AT ST. CLOUD—June 18, 1946. I heard a new song and the singer looked like a picture in Dr. Roberts' book of a young male orchard oriole. He was sitting on the telephone wires or nearby branches.

June 21. I discovered the orchard oriole's nest in the tip of a sky-touching branch about 50 feet up in a huge old elm. When the bird leaves the nest, she goes quickly some distance and returns and settles before you can identify her. The male sings nearby while she does this. Once I saw him fetch her something to eat on the nest. I have a good view from an upstairs window, but the nest is so concealed that only when a breeze separates the leaves, do you see it.

June 22. The young male took a bath in our bird bath when a robin saw fit to get out.

July 8. The oriole is till singing. I saw the two flying in the garden and they still fly to the nest.

July 12. There are welcoming cries when the orioles fly into the branch where the nest is.

July 15. I hear no singing today, it is all over.

In August I persuaded a maintenance man from the telephone company to snip off the branch with the nest. It was woven of long slim grasses around little limbs and was pendant. In the bottom were little bits of cottony substances.—Mrs. A. J. Trainor, St. Cloud Bird Club, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

ST. PAUL BIRD CLUB - PUBLIC LIBRARY - ST. PAUL 2, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION - Presented at Meeting of January 23, 1947.

Members of the St. Paul Bird Club have called to the attention of the Conservation Committee the fact that they have seen newspaper accounts of a proposal to band a limited number of crows and offer prizes for the return of the designated bands. Because it is well known that people will do things for money or prizes that they would not otherwise do, it seems certain that a large number of untrained gunners would take to the field, constituting a distinct safety hazard. Because such people usually are not outdoorsmen, it follows that they will not be able or will not be concerned about distinguishing between crows and birds that resemble them, particularly in flight, such as hawks, owls, ospreys, eagles, etc. Because it is a general observation that predator hunts often degenerate into indiscriminate shooting bees in which anything that is alive, including game birds and mammals, are likely targets, and Because, although many of our members are sportsmen and although we recognize that crows may be over-abundant in certain areas, we strongly feel that the delicate and highly-controversial subject of predator control should not be thrown into the circus arena of prizes, fanfare, ballyhoo, and commercialized promotion - an atmosphere in which facts and logic wither and die, **THEREFORE**, The St. Paul Bird Club hereby goes on record in opposition to a crow-banding contest or any similar promotion that threatens to do more harm than good, and urges the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and other bird and conservation clubs to do likewise.

Submitted by

Conservation Committee,
GEORGE ANDERSON, Chairman.

March, 1947

Editor's Note. The above resolution was read and passed unanimously by the members of the St. Paul Bird Club with 102 members present. As we go to press—it was also read and passed unanimously at a recent meeting, of the Minneapolis Bird Club, and the Minneapolis Audubon Society.

SOME ADDITIONAL 1946 NESTING RECORDS—(Editor's Note: This fine list of nesting data of fifty-nine species reported by Don and Eldeen Jacobs was overlooked when compiling the nesting summary which appeared in the December, 1946, issue of *The Flicker*).

PIED-BILLED GREBE. June 9, Minneapolis, nest with 3 eggs; June 15, Minneapolis, 6 nests: 8, 6, 6, 3, eggs, and 2 from which the young had just left.

GREEN HERON. May 26, SW Minneapolis, 5 nests: 1, 2, 3, 4, eggs, and one under construction; June 15, SW Minneapolis, 8 new nests: 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, and 4 eggs.

MALLARD. S. Minneapolis, July 4, nest with 9 eggs, 2 broods of young leaving nests with parents.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. May 11, NE Minneapolis, nest with 2 eggs; June 15, SW Minneapolis, 6 young with parents; July 4, S Minneapolis, 3 families of young (5, 8, and 9) with parents; July 7, Minneapolis, nest with 8 eggs.

RUDDY DUCK. July 4, S Minneapolis, 2 families of young (6,7) with parents.

WOOD DUCK. June 2, Lake Minnetonka, 14 young with parents; June 9, Lake Minnetonka, 12 young with parents.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. May 5, L. Minnetonka, Hennepin Co., nest with 2 eggs and 1 young.

PHEASANT. June 14, Theo. Wirth Park, Minneapolis, 13 eggs in nest.

VIRGINIA RAIL. June 15, SW Minneapolis, nest with 8 eggs; June 30, SW Minneapolis, nest with 7 eggs; July 4, S Minneapolis, nest with 4 eggs.

SORA. July 4, S Minneapolis, nest with 11 eggs.

FLORIDA GALLINULE. June 30, SW Minneapolis, nest with 5 eggs; July 4, S Minneapolis, several empty nests and 6 young several days old, 6 young one week old, 7 young two weeks old. **Each set with parents.**

COOT. May 26, SW Minneapolis, 5 nests: 10, 8, 4, 3, 2 eggs; June 6, S Minneapolis, 7 young with parents; June 15, SW Minneapolis, 7 nests: 11, 8 hatching, 7, 5, 5 hatching, 3, 1 eggs; July 4, SW Minneapolis, nest with 5 hatching eggs and 2 young, nest with 8 eggs.

PIPING PLOVER. July 8, Minnesota Point, Duluth, two nests with 4 eggs each, 6 empty nests, all lined with clam shell chips and light pebbles, on open sand.

KILLDEER. April 11, NW St. Paul, 2 nests with 4 eggs each; May 19, T. Wirth Park, Minneapolis, 2 nests with 4 eggs each; June 15 SW Minneapolis, nest with 3 eggs.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. July 8, Minnesota Point, Duluth, nest with 3 eggs, on open sand, lined with clam shell chips; nest with 3 hatching eggs in sandbar willow thicket, thin lining of grass; several young up to three-fourths grown.

COMMON TERN. July 8, Minnesota Point, Duluth, 9 nests with eggs: 5 with 2, and 4 with 3; several empty nests and young up to half grown.

BLACK TERN. June 9, S Minneapolis, 8 nests: 4 with 3, 3 with 3, 3 with 2, and 1 with 1 egg; June 15, SW Minneapolis, 10 nests: 2 with 1, 5 with 2, and 3 with 3 eggs; July 4, S. Minneapolis, many young from newly hatched to three-fourths grown, none able to fly yet, 4 nests with eggs.

MOURNING DOVE. April 22, U. of Minn. campus, nest with 2 eggs; May 11, Lake Harriet, Minneapolis, 2 nests, 2 eggs in each; May 17, L. Nokomis, Minneapolis, 2 nests, 2 eggs in each.

GREAT HORNED OWL. April 14, Medicine Lake, Hennepin Co., nest with 3 young, 3-4 wks. old.

BELTED KINGFISHER. May 25, L. Minnetonka, nest with young, 2 wks. old.

FLICKER. June 27, U. of Minn. campus, 4 young leaving nest.

PILEATED WOODPECKER. June 2, L. Minnetonka, 3 young leaving nest, all females.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. June 28 Minnehaha Glen Minneapolis nest with week-old young.

HAIRY WOODPECKER. June 22, Minnehaha Glen, nest with 3 week-old young.

DOWNY WOODPECKER. June 22, Minnehaha Glen, young just out of nest, with parents.

PHOEBE. April 20, Medicine Lake, nest with 5 eggs (1 of the cowbird); May 4, Little Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, nest with 5 eggs; June 9, L. Minnetonka, nest with 4 eggs (2 cowbird).

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. April 8, W. St. Paul, nest with 2 young and 2 eggs.

PURPLE MARTIN. June 17, L. of the Isles, Minneapolis, 3 nests with young.

BLUE JAY. May 18, T. Wirth Park, Minneapolis, nest with 3 young.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. March 31, L. Minnetonka, 2 pair excavating, 3 eggs in one April 20, 8 young left nest May 26.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. May 18, T. Wirth Park, nest with nearly mature young; May 22, T. Wirth Park, 4 young leaving nest.

HOUSE WREN. June 9, L. Minnetonka, building; June 29, Minnehaha Glen, 2 young with parents.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. July 4, S Minneapolis, 3 occupied nests: one, 4, and 4 young, 24 empty nests; July 7, S. Minneapolis, nest with 4 eggs, 4 empty nests.

CATBIRD. May 26, SW Minneapolis, nest with 3 eggs.

BROWN THRASHER. May 9, L. of the Isles, nest just completed; May 26, SW Minneapolis, nest with 3 young.

ROBIN. April 28, Carlos Avery Refuge, nest with 3 eggs; May 10, U. of Minn. campus, 2 nests, 4 eggs each; May 12, S Minneapolis, 2 young out of nest, fed by parents; May 19, T. Wirth Park. 5 nests with young (2, 3, 3, 4, 4,).

WOOD THRUSH. June 2, L. Minnetonka, nest with 3 young and 1 egg; June 9, L. Minnetonka, nest with 4 young.

BLUEBIRD. May 26, L. Minnetonka, nest with 3 young and 1 egg.

STARLING. June 29, Minnehaha Park, 3 nests with young.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO. June 9, Gooseberry Falls, Lake Co., 1 young just out of nest being fed by parents.

RED-EYED VIREO. July 13, T. Wirth Park, young out of nest being fed by parents.

YELLOW WARBLER. June 2, L. Minnetonka, nest with 3 eggs (1 cowbird); June 16, SW Minneapolis, nest with 1 young.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. July 9, Gooseberry Falls male, carrying food to young out of nest.

CANADA WARBLER. July 9, Gooseberry Falls, 2 families of young out of nest being fed by parents.

REDSTART. July 9, Gooseberry Falls, young out of nest fed by parents.

ENGLISH SPARROW. April 10, U. of Minn. campus, 3 nests: 2, 3, and 5 eggs.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK. May 18, T. Wirth Park, 5 young (2 cowbirds).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK. May 5, Medicine Lake, building; May 19, S Minneapolis, nest with 4 eggs.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. May 26, SW Minneapolis, 2 nests being built, 5 nests with eggs (1, 2, 2, 3, 4); June 15, same place, many young out of nests, 9 nests with young, 8 nests with eggs (2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4,); July 4, S Minneapolis, 2 nests with eggs (2, 3), 5 nests with young, many empty nests.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. May 26, SW Minneapolis, 9 nests (1-4 eggs in each); June 9, S Minneapolis, 6 nests with eggs, some hatching; June 15, SW Minneapolis, many young out of nests, 15 nests, with young, 12 with eggs (1-4).

BREWERS BLACKBIRD. May 18, T. Wirth Park, nest with 3 eggs; May 21, T. Wirth Park, nest being built; May 26, SW Minneapolis, 2 nests, young leaving, one nest with 3 young and 1 egg.

COWBIRD. Noted above, eggs in yellow-warbler, eastern meadowlark, phoebe, and cardinal nests.

CARDINAL. May 10, L. Harriet, 5 eggs (2 cowbird's); May 30, L. Minnetonka, 1 young in nest.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK. June 29, Minnehaha Glen, 1 young being fed by both parents out of nest.

GOLDFINCH. July 25, U. of Minn. campus, nest with 2 eggs.

CHIPPING SPARROW. May 29, U. of Minn. campus, nest with 1 egg.

FIELD SPARROW. June 27, T. Wirth Park, nest with 3 eggs; July 19, Bush Lake, Hennepin Co., nest with 3 young.

SWAMP SPARROW. June 9, S Minneapolis, nest with 5 eggs.

SONG SPARROW. April 27, Medicine Lake, nest with 5 eggs.—Don and Eideen Jacobs, Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sensing the need of signs to protect woodlots from the depredations of irresponsible hunters, the St. Paul Bird Club has had some made which are proving effective, and which owners generally welcome, as the exclusion of vandals means less danger of fire. The signs are sold to any person wanting them at one dollar each. They are 12 x 18 inches in size with black lettering on white masonite board. The wording:

WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY
NO SHOOTING

Special discounts will be made if a quantity is ordered. Other bird clubs will be furnished the signs at cost, as it is believed they will help to protect and increase wildlife. Inquiries should be addressed to Guy Atherton, Box 72, St. Paul 2, Minnesota.

CALL NOTES

Beginning with 1947, the National Audubon Society will publish only one edition of *Audubon Magazine*. The season reports, Christmas Count, and the Breeding Bird Census will be published as a separate magazine with its own publication dates instead of as Section II of the *Audubon Magazine*, as heretofore. The title, *Audubon Field Notes*, will be continued however. The subscription price of the new magazine will be \$2.00.

Dr. O. S. Pettingill, Jr. has resigned from the whooping crane research project and is back at Carleton College again. The whooping crane study is sponsored jointly by the National Audubon Society and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The assignment was taken over in November by Robert P. Allen, who will devote full time to it. Mr. Allen is well known for his researches on the life history of the roseate spoonbill.

The Conservation Volunteer received a request last year for permission to reprint in Spanish portions of Dr. W. J. Breckenridge's articles on the birds of prey which have appeared from time to time in the *Volunteer*. The conservation section of the Pan-American Union plans to distribute the Spanish version in Latin-American countries.

The five articles on hawks and owls have been compiled and published as *Conservation Bulletin No. 10, Minnesota Birds of Prey*. This bulletin may be secured free from the Bureau of Information, 633 State Office Building, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

That Twin City folks are showing a greater interest in wildlife pictures is evidenced by the crowds attending the illustrated lectures on Sunday after-

noons at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. On several occasions the pictures have had to be shown twice, and standing room has been at a premium. These programs are arranged by Dr. W. J. Breckenridge.

Major Allan Cyril Brooks, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, January 5, 1946. Major Brooks was well known as a bird artist. He painted thirty-eight of the plates for Dr. Thomas Sadler Roberts' *THE BIRDS OF MINNESOTA*.

Ernest Thompson Seton, famous naturalist, American author, and illustrator, passed away at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on October 23, 1946. He was born at South Shields, England, in 1860.

In 1901 Seton was made a member of the American Ornithologists' Union. He was an associate from the time the AOU was organized. A number of his drawings have been published in ornithological magazines. In 1897 he illustrated *BIRD LIFE* by Frank M. Chapman. Some attribute to him the inspiration for our present-day field guides because of his use of diagrammatic pictures in teaching bird identification.

He was known also as one of the originators of the Boy Scout movement; in 1901 several clubs had been formed under the name of Woodcraft Indians. In 1904, with the help of Lord Baden-Powell, the organization was introduced in England and in 1908 became popular under its new name of Boy Scouts. In 1915 Seton resigned as chief scout of the American Boy Scouts

and turned his attention to the Woodcraft League.

He became widely known through his clever animal stories, the author's name appearing for a time as Ernest Seton Thompson. Some of his best known writings; illustrated largely by

himself, are: WILD ANIMALS I HAVE KNOWN (1898); LOBO, RAG, AND VIXEN (1899); TWO LITTLE SAVAGES (1903); THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA: A HANDBOOK (1910); MANUAL OF THE WOODCRAFT INDIANS (1915). —S. C. H.

HAVE YOU READ THESE ARTICLES?

The Seasons of Bird Song. The Beginning of Song in Spring by Aretas A. Saunders. *The Auk*, January, 1947.

A. A. Saunders has kept careful records of the singing of birds for more than thirty years, especially in southwestern Connecticut. These birds are also found in Minnesota.

Hunting the Arctic Gyr by Frank Illingworth. *Travel*, December, 1946.

Those who are interested in falconry will enjoy Illingworth's experience in hunting the gyrfalcon amid the bleak and desolate mountain ranges of northern Lapland.

Food! Food! Food! by Josephine V. Willis. January-February, 1947, *Audubon Magazine*.

If you are puzzled over bird menus, read this article.

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Affiliated Societies

CLOQUET BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Louise Stender; Vice President, Miss Doris Anderson; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Helen Berg; Editor, Miss Adeline Peterson.

Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Cloquet High School at 7:30 p.m.

DULUTH BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Joel K. Bronoel; Vice President, Miss Frances Riddle; Secretary, Miss Helen C. Smith; Treasurer, Miss Harriet Lockhart.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month of the school year at 7:30 p.m. at the State Teachers College.

LAKEVIEW BRANCH OF THE DULUTH BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Freida Beier; Vice President, Mrs. John Thomas; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Wernowsky.

Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the homes of the members.

MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers: President, Mrs. E. D. Swedenborg; Vice President, Mrs. Harry W. Rice; Treasurer, Mrs. W. L. Harris; Recording Secretary, Miss A. Glasoe; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Stuart S. Sutherland; Field Secretary, Mrs. Gaylord Davidson; Auditor, Miss Cathryne Yerxa.

Meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Walker Branch Library. Field trips during April and May on Tuesdays, and Fridays.

MINNEAPOLIS BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Evelyn Behrens; Vice President, Luther B. Gilbert; Secretary, Miss Florence Nelson; Treasurer, Miss Helen Towle.

Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Public Library.

MINNESOTA BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Lewis L. Barrett; Vice President, H. J. Paul; Secretary, Mrs. I. A. Lupient; Treasurer, Harvey Gunderson.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, except in June, July, August, and September, at 8:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History.

ST. CLOUD BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Monica Misho; Vice President, Mrs. Charles Beacom; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Loretta Rosenberger.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from October through March in the committee room of the public library at 8:00 p.m.

T. S. ROBERTS ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Officers: President, Bob Tuttle; Secretary-Treasurer, Joe Huber; Adviser G. W. Friedrich.

Meetings are held bi-monthly February through May at the St. Cloud Teachers College.

ST. PAUL BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Kenneth Morrison; Vice President, Leonard Lustig; Treasurer, R. A. Kortmann; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Irene Knapton; Recording Secretary, Miss Ruth Arnquist; Directors at Large, Mrs. R. M. Elliott and Miss Genevieve Clark.

Meetings are held at the St. Paul public library at 7:45 p.m., the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May.

THE FLICKER

VOLUME 19

JUNE, 1947

NUMBER 2



Published Quarterly by
THE
MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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The Flicker

Organ of the *MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION*

Published Quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

THE FLICKER is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Dues for all members, \$1.00 per annum, should be paid in advance to the treasurer.

All articles and communications for publications and exchanges should be addressed to the editor.

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THE FLICKER

VOLUME 19

JUNE, 1947

NUMBER 2

European Bird Observations

by

Harvey L. Gunderson

Along with overseas service as a military duty came the opportunity of observing the bird life of the British Isles and of the European Continent. Needless to say, these opportunities varied with military conditions and existing precautions for military security. I arrived in Great Britain in the early part of March, 1944, and was first stationed in Glasgow, Scotland. Being stationed in a large city does not afford opportunities, and preparation for the invasion of the Continent by the Allies did not allow much time for such esthetic activities as bird study, but the little time that could be spared was utilized.

Great Britain has many excellent books for the identification of birds and my first purchases were Coward's, *BIRDS OF THE BRITISH ISLES* and *THE OBSERVER'S BOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS* by S. Vere Benson. The latter is a pocket guide which is not complete but proved useful in both Great Britain and on the Continent. The majority of species of birds found in Great Britain are also found in Central Europe.

To ornithologists Scotland is synonymous with red grouse and I was anxious to see this game bird. I went to the museum at Glasgow for help in locating an area where I might be able to see it, but the Scottish people were much occupied with the war and most of the staff was gone, with the result I received no help. Muirhead's *GUIDE*, June, 1947

BOOK TO GREAT BRITAIN designated Perth as the "Gateway to the Highlands." Since the red grouse is a bird of the high moors, this seemed a logical place from which to start. The first chance I had I went to Perth, where I found a small but excellent museum. The director was able to tell me where he had seen red grouse and other interesting species of birds in peace time, but these places proved too far away to be reached within the allotted time. While showing me around the museum, the director was quite pleased to show me a pair of passenger pigeons from America! At the outskirts of Perth there was a rock outcrop where Kestrel's were nesting, so I went there and saw several of these falcons.

By now I had become acquainted with several species of British birds, such as rook, jackdaw, lapwing, skylark, fieldfare, blackbird and others.

As a member of the Wilson Club I wanted to see Alexander Wilson's birthplace at Paisley, just outside Glasgow. There was a statue of him in the square near the old cathedral at Paisley. The museum had another statue and a display of several pages of his handwriting. My query concerning his birthplace was promptly answered but led me to the birthplace of another Wilson the "Christopher North" of English literature and famous faculty member of the University of Edinburgh. I started the search over again,

but avoided the pitfall of being sent to the birthplace of the literary Wilson. I was told the other Wilson's birthplace "was probably in the old section of town," where I finally found it. The line of demarcation between the "old section" and "new section" was rather vague to me, an American. The house had been replaced by a large industrial building of the J. & P. Coats Thread Company, with only a plaque on the wall to remind us that here was born the man who undertook the first comprehensive work on American birds.

In June our unit moved to Ayr, Scotland. Up to this time my efforts to find red grouse had been futile and I decided upon a new method. A contour map of Ayrshire was studied to find a locality which would have a habitat suitable for red grouse and which could be visited in a day. Loch Doon, fifteen miles from Ayr and four miles from the village of Dalmellington, seemed to satisfy both requirements. The Loch fulfilled every expectation. It was at an elevation of about 1,000 feet, surrounded by wild moors covered with heather. It is also the source of the River Doon which figures in one of Robert Burns' best known poems. There were only two small farms in the area. Here I saw the red grouse for the first time. I also saw and heard many curlews, whose melancholy call was reminiscent of the call of our upland plover.

The following week I returned to Loch Doon and had an interesting experience at the small hotel in Dalmellington, where I had stopped to eat before returning to Ayr. I was informed by the innkeeper that there was someone outside to see me. When I went outside I found a "Bobby" who seemed as surprised and embarrassed as I was. He asked if I had been at Loch Doon and if I had taken pictures there. I answered "Yes" to both questions. After an interval of time he said, rather haltingly, "But you are an American,

aren't you?" I said, "Yes, I am!" He explained that one of the farmers near Loch Doon had telephoned the local police to inform them of a man in a strange uniform taking pictures there. He further explained that he would have been negligent in his duties if he had not investigated, but that everything was "quite all right." His was a very embarrassed "Cheerio!"

About four miles from Ayr were the Carrick Hills which I had at first overlooked as being grouse habitat. My first investigation of these hills was very profitable. I saw six red grouse there. From that time until August, 1944, I spent many evenings roaming these hills. Due to Scotland's geographical location darkness does not come till nearly midnight during the summer months.

My next station was at Sutton Coldfield, a suburb of Birmingham, England. It was now fall and there were not many birds to be seen. I visited Oxford University and there I met Dr. Tucker, one of the authors of the *HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS* of which I had been able to purchase two volumes. During my brief stay in England I was never able to accompany Dr. Tucker on a field trip, but he was helpful in suggesting books I might look for on the Continent. One of the books highly recommended as an identification book for Central European birds was *WAS FLIEGT DENN DA?* by Drs. Wilhelm Gotz and Alois Kosch.

In November of 1944 I went to the Continent and on November 28 I entered Germany, where I was stationed in Alsdorf till the latter part of February, 1945. I saw a few of the permanent residents such as the blackbird, Hungarian partridge, house sparrow, and ring-necked pheasant. One new species, the crested lark, was seen in the streets of Alsdorf during a storm in January. It had sought shelter from the high winds in the more open areas

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which is its normal habitat. My only ornithological activity at this time was trying to "liberate" at least one German bird book, but my only acquisition was a very poor one put out by a cigarette firm.

Spring of 1945 saw the crossing of the Roer and Rhine rivers in Germany, again leaving little time for bird study. Other deterrents were such signs as "Road and Shoulder only cleared (of mines)." For nearly a month after VE day our unit was supervising overrun German military hospitals and there was much to be done. The first part of June we moved into the concentration area for medical units, but were non-operational. This left us with much time for recreational activities, and it was during this period that I learned to know most of the birds.

On a trip to Paris in June I purchased a four-volume work on the birds of France. I also visited the famous Jardin des Plantes. The Jardin des Plantes and its associated institutions has had many colorful staff members, whose interest has extended beyond the field of science. Such were Buffon and Cuvier whose houses are still standing. The Natural History Museum, located in the garden, has a great collection. One specimen that attracted my attention was a *Grus canadensis* from the "Etats-Unis."

I had been constantly on the lookout for good bird books on Central Europe, asking individuals and searching through those bookstores which had withstood the effects of war. Those bookstores still operating were aware of the book, *WAS FLIEGT DENN DA?*, but informed me that it had been a very popular book and would therefore be difficult to buy. Dr. Tucker had mentioned that Germany probably had a higher number of ornithologists per capita than any other country. This certainly seemed true of the amateur ornithologists.

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During July we acted as a station hospital and had additional medical officers assigned to us. One of these, Capt. Allyn, was an enthusiastic and keen ornithologist and a member of the American Ornithologists' Union. We exchanged much information and spent all our free time in the field. He had an extra copy of *VOGELFAUNA VON HESSEN* which he gave me and it proved very helpful.

In August I had a leave to the Riviera where I expected to see some new birds, especially the bee-eater. Again I was deterred in a particularly inviting looking grove of trees by a sign "Danger, Mines. Please Stay on Path." The added courtesy of "Please" was superfluous! I purchased several books on the flora and fauna of the Riviera. One of these, written by an Englishman, gave the information that the area was noted for its lack of bird life, a conclusion I had already reached.

Throughout my time in Europe I tried to gain information concerning specific and well known species from the local inhabitants. This served several purposes, the most immediate of which was to gain information. Another purpose was to gauge the knowledge of the individual I was questioning to see if his information was reliable or if he were only superficially enthusiastic. I had an experience with the latter type, a "Revierforster," who assured me that in Bavaria crosses between the male black grouse and the female Capercaillie had established themselves as species. To act on such information, or on information gained from such an individual, would be a waste of time. Incidentally, the crosses either way are called "Rackelhuhn."

South of Heidelberg, Germany, I had seen an empty stork nest, but I was informed there was none in our area, till one day late in September, a man told me there was a stork nest in Atz-

bach, about ten kilometers away. I went there the same afternoon but the birds had already left. I was also anxious to see the nightingale, which I had missed seeing in England. Braunfels Castle (after which New Braunfels, Texas is named) was quite near us. There is a large estate adjoining the castle and here the nightingales sing every spring. The information came too late to be of any value to me, and I was very sorry not to have seen the nightingale.

In October I had a leave to Switzerland. Here I added three new species to the list, but did not see the Alpine birds I was most anxious to see, the ptarmigan and the Alpine wall creeper. This latter bird was supposed to be present in the Gorge of the Aar where I spent one afternoon looking for it, without success. It was occasionally seen in the vicinity of the Castle of Chillon, another tourist attraction. In Lucerne, Switzerland I was finally able to buy *WAS FLIEGT DENN DA?* I also bought *VOGEL DER SCHWEIZ* by Dr. F. Bauman who is the Director of the Museum at Berne and teaches, among other courses, one in ornithology at the University. I had the good fortune of spending one afternoon with him, looking through the museum and the library. I was thus able to see some books I had heard of but had not seen. The museum was one of the finest.

The identification of British and Central European birds seemed less difficult than the identification of American birds. Many families are represented by fewer species, and some families are represented by only one species. There is only one kingfisher, one oriole (not a true oriole), one wren and one waxwing. The sparrows of Europe are not as difficult of identification nor as many as ours. The titmice (chickadees), of which there are about five common species, are frequently seen, but pre-

sent no problem of identification. In one family we find the same peculiar problem of distinguishing between species that exist in Europe as well as America. In the Eastern United States we have the hairy and downy woodpecker. In Britain and Central Europe we have the great and lesser spotted woodpecker, both very similar in appearance. The wryneck (*Wendehals* in German) is an interesting European member of the family *Picidae*. It is called this because of its habit of twisting its head at seemingly impossible angles. In the family *Anatidae* we find some of the same species in Europe as are found in America, such as the mallard, shoveler and pintail.

It was an interesting experience to see many of the birds which I had only seen pictures of and read about. The skylark has been popularized by several British poets. The red grouse has been brought to our attention by the "Red Grouse Inquiry" and an article in *Life* magazine. The nightingale (which I did not see) has been brought to popular attention in many ways. One of these, the annual spring broadcast by BBC from a wood in Surrey led to an interesting episode. During the broadcast in the spring of 1942, a wave of British bombers flew over on their way to bomb Mannheim, Germany. The nightingale continued singing as the bombers roared overhead. To the British this was not only interesting but significant, perhaps because it symbolized their attitudes of "There will always be an England." Records of this broadcast were made, and the money received from the sale of these records is used for the relief of the RAF pilots.

During the nearly two years spent overseas, ninety-five species were positively identified and in addition there were a few species whose identity could not be definitely ascertained.—Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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The Goose Migration In April At Sand Lake Refuge

by

Lewis L. Barrett

In order to observe the amazing phenomenon of 250,000 geese in their annual northward spring migration a small band of Minnesota Bird Club members left Minneapolis the afternoon of April 11, 1947, to journey some 300 miles to the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota. Since early April, 1946, when this group of "bird enthusiasts" had watched the goose migration at Lake Traverse in western Minnesota, plans had been made to travel to the "Jack Rabbit" state in 1947 to see the blue and snow goose migration.

Conditions looked very adverse for our birding expedition at the outset of our trip as rain and snow were falling and the temperature was 34° F. at Minneapolis. However, the weather had cleared when we arrived at Willmar, Minnesota. We drove on to Aberdeen, South Dakota, arriving at our destination shortly after 11:00 P.M. When we checked the hotel roster that evening we found that our party included the following Minnesota Bird Club members: Byron Harrell, Bruce Hayward, Ruth Hopkins, Don Jacobs, Theodora Malone, Sam McIver, Ethel and Lyman Newlin, Horace Paul, Janet Sanford, Dick Straw, and the writer. Mrs. Anna G. Baldwin of the Chicago Bird Club flew by airplane to Minneapolis in order to join our expedition.

The urge to see wild geese can become a powerful driving force. Although weary from our previous days' travel we arose at 4:30 A.M. on Saturday, April 12, in order to watch the morning goose flight at Sand Lake. In June, 1947

our drive to the refuge we found ample evidence of an abundant pheasant population in the Aberdeen area. Most pot holes contained pintails and mallards with a sprinkling of shovellers. Meadowlarks and red-winged blackbirds were common along the roadsides. Bronzed grackles and Brewer's blackbirds frequented the groves of trees around farm buildings. Numerous flocks of small birds moved in undulating flocks over the prairie and at times seemed to fill the air. These small birds proved to be Lapland longspurs. Horned larks flew up from the gravel shoulders along the roadside. Wavering, irregular groups of crows flew across the fields. Red-tailed hawks soared over the fields. A small flock of Franklin's gulls settled near a temporary pond in a soaked field. We commonly hear of April skies bringing April showers, but these same skies can also bring an astounding movement of migrating birds.

"Dame fortune" seemed to smile on us this bright spring morning as there were few clouds in the blue sky overhead. During early April the weather had been monotonous as there was almost continuous overcast skies with rain falling practically every day. Two members of the Minnesota Bird Club, Harvey Gunderson and William Longley, had encountered a snowstorm and sleet when they were at the Sand Lake Refuge a week before our expedition. Another spring snowstorm had fallen just a few days before our arrival. About eight inches of snow remained in the protected roadside ditches. The large lakes were still ice bound. The

fields were saturated with water. Most of the sideroads were practically impassible. However, overhead the sun was shining brightly. What a beautiful morning it was to be afield watching another bird migration unfold before our eyes.

As we approached the refuge area we had our first glimpse of geese flying out from Sand Lake to feed in the fields. We stopped at a cross road to watch the morning goose flight. Soon the "wavies" began coming. Flock after flock of geese came off the distant lake. Many mixed flocks of blue and snow geese passed in close range so that we could observe the color variations of the blue geese thru our binoculars. We made a number of counts of these flying-wedges and discovered that there were approximately two blue geese to each snow goose. This was a higher proportion of snow geese than is commonly observed in these mixed flocks.

As V-shaped groups of Canada geese passed noisily overhead, we noticed that some of the "honkers" were dropping into a nearby corn field. A dozen white-fronted geese decoyed to the Canada geese. Soon, we had about 150 geese feeding in front of us where we could observe them to advantage through a small telescope.

Next we ventured onto one of the better side roads. As we drove over a slight rise the field on our right seemed to erupt thousands of the "webbed-footed" clan into the air. The further we drove in the car we found that additional flocks of feeding geese were being flushed until flock after flock took wing. Another rise in the road unfolded a remarkable scene. About half a mile away there appeared to be a partially snow-covered field. Upon closer examination the white patches proved to be snow geese. There were possibly 50,000 snow and blue geese grazing in this field.

Our next stop was the Sand Lake Refuge headquarters. This may be a good place to include some information concerning the refuge area. Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge is located in the northeastern part of South Dakota. It is about 40 miles northeast of Aberdeen. It was established by virtue of executive order dated September 4, 1935. The refuge extends from within a few miles of the North Dakota border southward along the James river. The refuge includes 22,000 acres, of which approximately one-half is covered by water and marsh. The water level is controlled by a series of dikes and dams. This refuge was established to provide breeding and resting grounds for migratory birds and other wildlife. Its bird-life is varied and abundant.

An N.Y.A. camp was maintained on the refuge during the tenure of that agency to assist in the improving of conditions for waterfowl on this area. Work accomplished on the Sand Lake Refuge through use of the N.Y.A. personnel as well as the C.C.C. included the erection of permanent buildings, roads and trails, the development of ponds, the collection of seed, and the fencing and posting of the entire area.

Sand Lake Refuge is strategically located in one of the major flight lanes for migratory waterfowl. Its effectiveness as a breeding and nesting area has been amply demonstrated in more than a decade of operation. The principal nesting ducks are mallard, gadwall, baldpate, pintail, blue-winged teal, shoveler and ruddy duck. Among the other birds using the area extensively for breeding purposes are the white pelican, double-crested cormorant, prairie chicken and ring-necked pheasant.

A white-tailed deer bounding across the field called our attention to the mammals of this area. We later learned that the deer have increased in num-

bers in recent years due to the improved habitat and protection which is afforded in the sanctuary. A considerable number of fur animals including mink, raccoon, skunk, muskrat, weasel, fox, and coyote occur on the refuge. A badger was observed while digging.

In the deeper water of Sand Lake we observed the following diving ducks: canvas-back, redhead, lesser scaup, ring-necked duck golden-eyes and buffle-head. American mergansers were noticeable. The pintail was the most commonly observed duck in the refuge. A small flock of white pelicans were sighted, and five whistling swans flew overhead as we stood on the roadway.

A hike along the east side of the marsh up to the Houghton dam revealed that the north side of the big marsh was still frozen. In the meantime we could see flocks of geese returning to the lake and building up a tremendous concentration on the west shore.

We returned to our cars on the highway and ate our lunch. While so engaged we found a south wind bringing many hawks across our field of vision. Sometimes 8 red-tailed hawks soared overhead at one time. We had a most interesting hawk migration developing for our observation. During the two days in the field a total of 120 hawks were identified. This included the following species: 61 marsh hawks, 49 red-tailed hawks, 4 rough-legged hawks, 3 sharp-shinned hawks, and 3 sparrow hawks. Two golden eagles rested in a tree on a wooded shore of the lake. The highway proved to be a good spot from which to photograph the geese that were plying back and forth on the lake.

That afternoon with Mr. Elmer Podall, who is one of the refuge workers, as our guide we watched the geese from the west side of the marsh. We learned from our guide that the first

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migrant geese to arrive this spring were Canada geese which winged into the refuge on March 21. The first flock of blue and snow geese put in an appearance on March 25. April is the best time to see geese at the Sand Lake Refuge. By May all of the geese have gone north with the exception of a few nesting Canada geese. In the fall considerable flocks of geese stop at the refuge in early October as they migrate southward. Some Canada geese remain at the refuge over winter.

Can you visualize 100,000 geese milling about in the sky? That is a sight that will not be very easily forgotten. One of the biggest thrills of our expedition came to us that afternoon as we watched from the protection of a willow thicket that bordered the lake. Out in front of us there was an immense flock of closely packed geese resting on the ice, while some of them floated in the open water. The sky overhead seemed to have a canopy composed of wavering lines of geese. As they drew nearer the flying-wedge formations assumed a more definite shape of large flocks of migrating geese which were arriving from farther south. These large flocks kept appearing on the southern horizon. Perhaps there were 25,000 geese or more in these flocks that dotted the sky. Then as the newly arrived migrants came in high over the main concentration of closely packed geese on the ice below, they decoyed. A tremendous clamour arose from the marsh as each new group joined the immense flock resting on the ice. As the decoying geese drifted earthward, these large birds seemed to revolve about a huge whirlpool. This whirlpool seemed to consist of layers of geese which were revolving earthward, with each layer describing a smaller circle than the one above it. Where the whirlpool touched the earth was a circle of comparatively small diameter. The din

from these honking geese was so great that it filled the air, and shut out all other earthly sounds. Sometime after the last flock had settled our movements disturbed the geese. The marsh seemed to belch forth dense clouds of honking geese which milled about in all directions. Late that afternoon, though the mud was heavy on our boots we trudged back toward our cars with high spirits, as we had witnessed one of nature's grandest performances of the goose migration.

The sun was sinking in the west as we drove back toward Aberdeen, yet we could see geese feeding in the fields. Pheasants were picking up gravel at the roadside. Five short-eared owls with their moth-like flight seemed to portend nightfall.

A strong southwest wind greeted us the morning of April 13 as we returned to the west shore of the big marsh of Sand Lake Refuge. That morning our objective was a long extended point which ran out to a dam in the lake. While on this point a greater yellow-legs flew overhead, and two prairie chickens from the main land glided across the lake. The numbers of green-winged teal observed were quite gratifying. That morning various flocks counted included 12, 9, 30, 8, 20, 6, and 14 green-winged teal.

We took advantage of the plant cover on the point in making a long stalk so as to get within close range of a large flock of geese which stood on a sand bar island and the bordering ice. We were surprised that we were able to get so close to these large birds by moving along slowly and stopping at frequent intervals to observe them through a twenty power observation scope. It was quite a thrill to find that all of the geese that used the central flyway were in this compact group. Standing near the big Canada geese

were lesser Canada geese. Nearby were diminutive Hutchin's geese. Blue and snow geese were associated together. White-fronted geese stood off from these latter species. In looking at the white-fronted geese during the two days we saw about 350 of the "speckle-bellies", and we had a good opportunity to learn how to identify this rather uncommon goose. In some of the flocks of Canada geese that flew overhead we observed lesser Canada geese.

Homeward bound that afternoon while driving eastward in the snow covered hills beyond Britton, South Dakota, we could still see flocks of geese out feeding in the fields. Spring was really here again with muddy roads, roadside ditches full of snow and water, and fields full of migrating geese.

The following 53 species or sub-species of birds were seen on this trip on April 12 and 13: pied-billed grebe, white pelican, whistling swan, Canada goose, lesser Canada goose, Hutchin's goose, white-fronted goose, lesser snow goose, blue goose, mallard gadwall, baldpate, American pintail, green-wing teal, shoveler, redhead, ring-necked duck, canvasback, lesser scaup duck, American golden-eye, bufflehead, American merganser, sharp-shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, golden eagle, marsh hawk, sparrow hawk, prairie chicken, European partridge, ring-necked pheasant, coot, killdeer, greater yellow-legs, herring gull, ring-billed gull, Franklin's gull, short-eared owl, horned lark, crow, robin, blue-bird, starling, English sparrow, western meadowlark, rusty black-bird, Brewer's blackbird, bronzed grackle, red-winged blackbird, slate-colored junco, tree sparrow, song sparrow, and Lapland longspur.—Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Victims of the Cowbird

by

Tilford Moore

In the morning of July 1, 1943, while returning to the office from the State Fair Grounds in St. Paul, I saw a brown thrasher feeding three young cowbirds. When I mentioned this in my semi-annual migration report to Dr. Roberts, I was surprised to get a very excited letter from him asking for more details and for a note for **THE FLICKER**. He said that I had witnessed a rare sight, indeed. The note appeared in the December, 1943 issue, and attracted considerable attention, for there had been but eight published records of thrashers being victimized in this way. Fewer still were the records of the parasite being raised to independence by this, their largest victim. Some time later, when I introduced myself to Dr. Breckenridge, he couldn't place my name at first, but soon exclaimed "Why, you're the one who made that cowbird-thrasher observation." Thus, you see, "fame" is easy in ornithology, if you open your eyes at the right time and spot. A knowledge of what to look for helps and, of course, your results should be published. Again, on May 26, 1946, I was shown a pair of brown thrashers incubating a cowbird's egg along with one of their own, while another thrasher egg rested in the trash pile only a few inches from the beak of the incubating bird. I replaced this egg and removed that of the cowbird, but the nest was later destroyed. At the Chicago Airport, on June 20, 1946, I saw another unusual host, a horned lark, busily feeding an almost independent young cowbird.

Thus, I have had the privilege of witnessing three rather rare instances of parasitism by the cowbird. The question now is, What makes these

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rare? What constitutes a common occurrence? What makes one species a suitable dupe for the parasite while another possesses means of combating the imposition?

The cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, is the only North American species which never builds a nest, and never cares for its young beyond the laying of the egg. All duties subsequent to that act are performed by the birds' into whose nest the egg is deposited, else the egg or nestling dies. In any event, the parent cowbirds are no longer interested, at least they show no further interest.

In the Old World, various cuckoos use this same method, and in South and Central America are other cowbirds having aberrant nesting habits. By studying these Latin American birds along with our species Dr. Herbert Friedmann arrived at the conclusion that our cowbird "got that way" because its various nesting instincts lost their timing. In short, the female cowbird found she had eggs to lay before her nest-building instinct had prompted her to build a nest. So she dumped her egg into the nearest handy receptacle. The Latin American species show a very nice "series", as the scientists call it, which demonstrates how this strange habit evolved. The bay-winged cowbird (the ancestral species) may build its own nest, but it prefers to hi-jack a nest from some other species, in which it lays its eggs and rears its young. Its next relative, the screaming cowbird, is wholly parasitic, but it foists its eggs only upon the bay-winged cowbird. Eggs and young of the two species are indistinguishable. Then there is the shiny cowbird which occasionally tries to build a nest, appar-

ently never succeeds, and ends by laying its eggs in the nests of other birds just as our parasite does. There are a few other species in South and Central America whose habits are like those of our cowbird.

Because the cowbirds use a method of rearing their young which is repulsive to us, we humanly accuse them of polygamy, polyandry and all sorts of sexual habits which are reprehensible to us. These excesses have not been proved. However, after deep study of the question, Dr. Friedmann says that while their "tendency toward monogamy is very strong", the species "is open to, or at least not protected from, the advent of polygamy". Here is a fertile field for further investigation.

Since the cowbird abandons its offspring on the doorstep of the selected host, the future of the species depends on (1) the requirements of the egg and nesting, (2) the ability of the host species to measure up to these requirements, and (3) the reaction of the host to the intrusion. On the answers to these questions also depends the rank of each species as a host and foster-parent. There are two great classes into which the hosts of the cowbird have been divided. First are the species which have been known to have raised young cowbirds to independence and are known as "available" species. Without these the cowbirds would disappear. The second group, known as "accidental" hosts, are those in whose nests cowbirds have laid eggs but in which the egg or nestling must perish because the hosts fail in one way or another to fulfill the requirements.

Here, then, are the requirements of the eggs and nestlings of the cowbird, together with some explanatory comments.

1. The species must be altricial, that is, it must care for its young until they are well feathered (a species having precocious young would be

unable to feed the young of the cowbird even though the eggs hatched.)

2. The feeding method should not depart markedly from the usual passerine method (swallows probably would fail as available hosts because they train their out-of-nest nestlings for a life in the air by dropping food to them.)
3. The diet should be mostly insects, though the goldfinch's seed-pulp seems to pass occasionally (this would rule out kingfishers, herons, etc.)
4. The host species should lay eggs not much, if any larger than those of the cowbird (if the cowbird egg is bigger it makes better contact with the breast of the incubating bird, thus, three cowbird eggs in a thrasher's nest probably would stand a better chance than one would among the larger eggs of the owner).
5. The temperament of the hosts must be such that they will accept and rear the alien egg and nestling (the robin, for one, throws the egg out. Some others bury the parasitic egg under a second story to the nest).
6. Apparently the host species must belong to the Order Passeriformes (no non-passerine species has been known to attain availability, though some have been accidental hosts. Also, the hen cowbird has some preferences:
7. She prefers open nests (so cavity-nesting wrens, woodpeckers, swallows, and English sparrows usually escape.)
8. She prefers the nest to be in relatively open places (which saves many of the woodland species.)
9. The nest should be within the range and habitat of the cowbird (All of Minnesota is within the range; cities are not frequented by many of this parasite).
10. Birds nesting out of time with the

cowbird escape (early horned lark nests are free and the late goldfinch and cedar waxwing nests are relieved of molothrine pressure).

In our search for the rarer cowbird hosts, we need only remember the requirements and preferences of the parasite, and guess at the probable tolerance of the host to be able to distinguish between the common and rarer hosts. This is rather difficult for some species submit or resist when a human estimate of their characters suggest the opposite action. First, we should remember that no non-perching bird has been proved capable of availability. We may find eggs in their nests, and a cowbird might even hatch there, but survival seems, and so far as we know, has proved impossible. Thus, these birds must be considered both rare and accidental hosts of the cowbird.

In studying the perching birds, the simplest method seems to be to look over the situation in each family as we go through the order. Among the flycatchers, phoebe and wood pewee are the only common hosts, the others are intolerant or escape because of their habitat. Early nests of the horned lark are free, but later ones may be parasitized. The egg from which my Chicago Airport bird hatched probably was laid close to a month before I saw the bird. This is late for young to be hatching from a lark's nest. We mentioned above why swallows are seldom molested—closed type nest and unsuitable feeding method. Birds of the crow family are all too big, and titmice, nut-hatches, and creepers all nest in holes. The wrens' family name, *Troglodyte* (Cave-dweller) tells of their defense, and besides, they are famous as egg destroyers. The brown thrasher is the largest bird victimized, but very rarely—I can't see why they don't throw the egg out—that's what the catbird and robin do. Of the thrushes, only the wood and willow (veery) suffer com-

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monly, the others have the advantage of nesting in deep woodlands, except the bluebird which is a hole-nester. The gnat-catcher is rather commonly parasitized, but the kinglets nest in deep woods where the cowbird seldom goes. The cedar waxwing nests too late and the migrant shrike is somewhat too pugnacious. Dr. Friedmann doesn't mention the starling as a victim, but it probably is as free as the other alien, the English sparrow, and for the same reasons—covered nest and habitat. Those vireos and warblers not nesting in deep woodlands are very common victims for their availability is about perfect. Even the prothonotary warbler and ovenbird are common victims in spite of their covered nests and seemingly unsuitable habitat. The yellow warbler often buries the unwanted egg under additional nesting materials, but is still the most common victim. Marsh habitat should save the bobolink, but Dr. Friedmann calls it a "not uncommon host". The Baltimore oriole sometimes covers the cowbird egg, sometimes tosses it out, sometimes raises it. The orchard oriole more often raises it. Size saves the grackle, but the other members of the blackbird family are often victimized, though locally, as is the case with the tanager. The members of the sparrow family which nest in Minnesota are favorite victims, only those having free habitats, swamps, woodlands, and the like, escaping. Then there is another group about which we know little simply because their nests are little known; these are the pipits and some of the rarer sparrows and warblers; we need data on these.

Every case of cowbird parasitism should be published with all pertinent data. If the victim is one of the commoner ones, the data should be submitted with the other nesting reports, but if it is a rare case it should deserve a special note. The eggs are about $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" (.76" to .99") in length, by about

5/8" (.58" to .72") in the short diameter. "In ground color the eggs vary from pure white to bluish white and the speckles from yellowish tan to dark brown. The spots and speckles are sometimes fine and uniformly distributed, sometimes coarse, and sometimes the large end of the egg is one large blotch of brownish. Occasionally one or more eggs of the owner are found outside an infested nest, as in the case of my thrasher nest of last year. Any positive data on who ejected the egg from the nest, how and when it was done, etc., would be a welcome contribution to ornithological science. If an egg is found in a nest of one of the rarer hosts it might be a good idea to leave it there and watch it to see if the host bird could or would raise the interloper. Otherwise it is good conservation to

remove it. In any event the serious student will record and report everything he can about the occurrence. Of interest are the date, habitat, host species, apparent age of egg or nestling, number of eggs or nestlings of both species, location of nest above ground, kind of tree or bush, and so on. A photograph, if obtainable would be well worth while, as it might help with a doubtful identification. But if one is in doubt, it is best to call for more expert aid.

(Except for my own observations, data are from Dr. Friedmann's great book, THE COWBIRDS. Dr Breckenridge kindly edited my manuscript and suggested several changes and corrections.) St. Paul Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Birds of the North Shore in Wintertime

by

Harvey L. Gunderson

The area familiarly known to Minnesotans as the "North Shore" is the shore of Lake Superior extending from Duluth to the Canadian Border. An excellent highway borders this shore, which forms one side of the triangular area of the Arrowhead Country. The other border of the point is formed by the Canadian Boundary. Such names as "Arrowhead Country," "Canoe Country," "Superior National Forest," "North Shore," and "Gunflint Trail" recall happy memories of summer vacations to tourists from many states. Some are beginning to feel the attraction of this country even in winter, but not many bird students visit the area at this time so a few observations gathered by Dr. W. J. Breckenridge and the writer while doing field work along the North Shore from February 22 to March 3, 1947, may not be amiss.

There is not a great variety of bird life anywhere in Minnesota during the winter, but the conditions which drive some birds away attract others. One of the interesting birds which finds winter conditions satisfactory here is the old squaw duck. Under adverse conditions, such as when Lake Superior freezes over, this duck may be forced into other parts of the state, but this is only accidentally. Many rafts of these ducks were seen from the vicinity of Grand Marais and north. The farthest south any of them were seen was at Two Harbors, during a driving blizzard. Observations on their diving were made at Dr. W. P. Abbott's place, fourteen miles northeast of Grand Marais. The cabin occupies a lookout point

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above the lake. From here the diving of a group of five old squaws was timed. Their first dive lasted one minute and ten seconds and the second one lasted one minute and five seconds. Kortright in his "The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America" gives an average of thirty-seven seconds for the diving of old squaws, but these birds were probably feeding in shallower waters. They are often caught in fishermen's nets, but along the North Shore never in the great numbers mentioned in Kortright's book. Dr. Abbott mentioned once having seen a group of old squaws dive in a small space of open water and the ice closed in before they came up. There were no open areas of water to be seen, so it appears that these ducks perished. A few American golden-eyes were scattered along the lake, as well as American mergansers. Dr. Abbott believes that with the coming of spring the American mergansers which winter on Lake Superior move inland to nest and their place along the shore is taken by the red-breasted mergansers. He also reported that a few blue and snow geese are seen along the shore during each spring migration. Warden Art Johnson reported that in 1939 or 1940 a flock of whistling swans spent some time in a pool of the Baptism River between Finland and Cramer.

In recent years the goshawk has been found nesting in this area, and can therefore be considered a permanent resident, but none were seen during our stay. At Silver Creek Cliff a bald eagle was seen cruising over the

lake in search of prey. It came in close to shore and, observing it from this vantage point, we had the unusually fortunate experience of looking down at an eagle.

The most unusual bird seen was the Richardson's owl. One evening as we were driving from Dr. Abbott's cabin to Grand Marais, Breckenridge saw a small owl atop a telephone pole, and it had no ear tufts! It could be only one of two owls, the sawwhet or Richardson's, either of which would have been interesting. On closer observation it was seen to have spots rather than streaks on top of its head and the bill was yellow, so it was definitely a Richardson's. Several days later the incident was mentioned to Dr. Abbott, he retrieved another Richardson's owl which his dog had recently killed and presented it to us for the museum collection.

The ruffed grouse were still scarce, only two being seen during the ten-day period. Really only one was seen in Minnesota, as the other was flushed just across the boundary in Canada.

Herring gulls can be seen at any season along the Lake Superior shore. During the winter one occasionally sees the larger and lighter glaucous gull amongst the flocks of herring gulls. This is a rather rare winter visitant from the north, where it is treated with great respect among the waterfowl, whose nests it robs of eggs and young. At one time we saw one among a flock of herring gulls and at another time three. Closer observation of all flocks of herring gulls will probably reveal its presence more often than is suspected. In fact the regularity with which Duluth observers are reporting this gull seems already to have established this fact.

Ravens were seen and heard on numerous occasions. Dr. Roberts, in his BIRDS OF MINNESOTA, said "It is evident that the raven is one of our disappearing birds and may be approaching extinction in the state." In recent years an increase in its numbers has been evident. Arthur Johnson of Grand Marais believed them increasing, almost to the point of becoming a nuisance, when they raid traps set for fur-bearers.

Canoeists and campers in northern Minnesota are often entertained by the antics of the camp robber or Canada jay. This permanent resident is an early nesting bird, but the few we saw were still cruising about in groups of three or more. Flying about in small flocks were Hudsonian chickadees. Black-capped chickadees, a hairy woodpecker and a red-breasted nuthatch were regular visitors at Dr. Abbott's feeding station. Pine grosbeaks were frequently seen, usually in places where the mountain ash still retained an abundance of berries. Flocks of redpolls were encountered frequently. Two flocks of Bohemian waxwings were seen, one at Grand Marais and one near Hovland. Several starlings were also seen at Grand Marais.

To students of Minnesota bird life the North Shore offers the chance of seeing birds which do not occur or are rarely seen elsewhere in the state. Such species as old squaw, Richardson's owl, raven and Canada jay are most likely to be encountered here. These opportunities together with its scenic beauty make the North Shore a place which can profitably be visited even in winter.—Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Common Names of Birds

by

O. A. Stevens

This topic is receiving considerable comment on account of the fact that some revision of names in the fourth edition of the A.O.U. Check-list is expected in the next edition which is being completed for publication. A recent article by Eisenmann and Poor (Wils. Bull., Dec. 1946) comes from a committee of the Linnean Society of New York.

The authors have presented arguments for a more scientific method of forming names but have overlooked some practical features. I would not agree with their statement that, "Personal names are lacking in associative value". Surely no one would hold that Harris's sparrow, Lincoln's sparrow and many others are lacking in this respect. True, the associative value is often little known, but this need not be a reflection on the name or on the man who bestowed it. The discarding of "inappropriate" names by scientists of only 100 years ago gave rise to protests which resulted in modern attempts to stabilize names.

To my mind the authors have missed one serious objection to the use of common names for subspecies. Several prominent ornithologists have recently deprecated the use of subspecific names where no accurate identification has been made. Thus the author of a local list or of a brief note often gives the subspecies which is to be expected in that area. The establishment of common names for subspecies encourages this practice.

If common names were listed for species only, might that not tend to discourage their use for subspecies? A contrary argument probably will be

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offered that such names will be used anyway, so it is better to have suitable ones recognized rather than to leave the field wide open to all sorts of local ones.

The matter of common names has interested me for many years, more especially those for plants. Britton and Brown's "Illustrated Flora" supplied common names for a great many species for which none had previously been available. Many of these were only translations of the scientific names, and as such, aroused considerable opposition. Admittedly, scientific names have not often been wisely chosen, but choice of a suitable name is rarely easy.

Personally, I feel that the objection to these manufactured names was not so much that of suitability or length as it was that they savor so much of the latinity of the scientific name which seems to arouse repugnance with a large proportion of Americans.

Eisenmann and Poor seem to overlook the fundamental fact that brevity is a chief feature of a name. The average user is not especially interested in suitability beyond his own horizon. He will quickly see any lack of suitability to his own conditions but will not recognize the broader applications. I have often noted the ready acceptance of a "catchy" name regardless of its suitability.

Names are fundamentally monomial and monosyllabic. Crow, wren, dog, cat, fly, bee, pear, plum and a host of others come quickly to mind. If we need to specify different kinds of these animals or plants, a qualifying adjective, compound name or longer word must be

used. The problem is then chiefly one of need. Do we need these long names? Personally I think we have wasted much paper and ink in trying to present a refinement which did not exist. I believe that aside from technical reports where subspecies are critically treated, we might better discard any attempt to name them. Much of the apparent inconsistency in present names is merely brevity of usage.

To the discarding of subspecific names, Eisenmann and Poor offer two objections: "(1) Valuable data indexed under those names might be overlooked. (2) A number of forms currently considered subspecies are readily distinguishable in the field." To the last we might add, "by some people." To the first we might comment that much misinformation is indexed under them. The careful worker is obliged to search out the synonyms and he will need to watch any changes which may now be made. "Today one never speaks of the 'Eastern song sparrow' but simply of the 'song sparrow', except when a discrimination between the Eastern song sparrow and some other race is partic-

ularly intended." Surely the authors have not examined many publications. If the quoted statement were true, there would be little need to discuss the feasibility of discarding subspecies' names. It would have been done already.

We cannot draw sharp lines and we cannot hope to reach finality. That should not deter us from making improvements and from trying to approach more closely to perfection. Some species are more difficult to identify than are some subspecies of other species. A few changes which are most needed should doubtless be made. A few such will be accepted with little disturbance. A large number will not be so readily accepted and will properly arouse questions as to the advisability of the rearrangement. I wish chiefly to point out that brevity and usability should be given primary consideration. We should consider not only the working ornithologists of today, but also the general reading public from which future students are drawn.—State College Station, Fargo, North Dakota.

NESTING RECORDS

Each year since 1938, members of the MOU have collected general information on the nesting habits of Minnesota birds and each year these data have been published in The Flicker. The name of the species, number of eggs or young, date observed, location—at least to the county—and the name of the observer should accompany each observation. It is suggested that this information be placed on 3 x 5 cards, one card for each species observed. This information should be sent to the Editor or to Dr. W. J. Breckenridge by September 10. Records should be sent in promptly as it takes considerable time to compile them.

"There is no doubt that at least two species of woodpeckers store acorns, sticking them firmly into holes which are bored 'for the purpose' in the tree stems."—J. Arthur Thomson, "Secrets of Animal Life."

Protection of Mourning Doves

by

Guy Atherton

Minnesota has now joined twenty-one other progressive states and the Dominion of Canada in the protection of mourning doves, the 1947 Legislature having added an amendment to the Game and Fish Code authorizing this.

It should be recognized by ornithologists that this measure is not a victory but an armistice. Two years from now we shall again have to oppose placing the dove back on the game list. In the hope that what we have learned may help future fighters, I wish to tell how we carried the campaign to success.

I acted as errand boy for the St. Paul Bird Club. All I knew at the start was that I wanted to see the mourning dove protected. I made mistakes and failed to do "first things first." I assumed that many friends would rally to the defense of the dove, and that if the protective measure could be brought before the Legislature it would be passed almost unanimously.

Mistake Number One. Friends of the dove are mostly satisfied to pass resolutions. Legislative hearings come at hours when they are busy or ill or forgetful. "It's like pulling teeth" to get a delegation to come to the capitol.

Mistake Number Two. The Legislature is in a haze of business which grows thicker as adjournment approaches. Mourning dove protection is a very minor interest at best; practically nil near the close of the season.

Mistake Number One can be remedied by stressing to Minnesota bird students the importance of making a strong representation of their interest at committee hearings. We have up-

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wards of one thousand members of the various bird study groups in the Twin Cities, yet less than a dozen of these appeared at any of the hearings.

Mistake Number Two can be avoided by reaching every member of the Legislature at an early date with information on the value of the mourning dove in agriculture and as a bird that is loved by many of our people and by tourists who come to Minnesota for recreation. The Federal Wildlife Service has gathered a large amount of data on the feeding habits of these birds; it is to be had for the asking. There are also accounts of banding experiments. These, for example, show that the mortality of the dove in the first year of its life, before it has a chance to breed, is about 84 per cent, divided between 25 per cent in the nesting period and 59 per cent during the hunting season. Actual count of weed seeds in the crops of the birds have been made, numbering into the thousands for a single specimen.

The campaign began with a request to Senator Daniel S. Feidt for information as to the bill he introduced two years ago. This measure was passed by both Houses, but got "lost" on the way to Governor Thye, an "incident" that gave its opponents a big laugh. Senator Feidt volunteered to introduce a new bill.

At the hearing before the Conservation Committee of the Senate not a single opponent appeared. Ten members of the bird groups came, but their testimony was not called for. The committee unanimously approved the bill. Later it passed the Senate.

In the House, Representatives P. Kenneth Peterson and Leo D. Madder

introduced the same bill. Representative Madden fell ill and was absent from most of the session.

At the first hearing before the Conservation Committee of the House a feeble attempt was made to oppose the bill on the ground that it interfered with the enjoyment of returned veterans. I spoke for it, and testimony in its favor was also given by Mrs. Grace L. Hosmer of Farmington, who came to every hearing except the last one, of which she had no notice. Mrs. Wilbur H. Hoffmann, though not a member of the Bird Club, came to the hearings. She made the point that people who wanted to taste dove meat could easily buy squabs. Joseph Reisinger, an active member of several Twin City bird groups, made a fine talk stressing the need of protection because the doves are growing scarcer. Opponents revamped the old arguments that the dove is a tender and tasty bit of meat, and that it is a swift flyer—a description that makes an ornithologist look cross-eyed. Another hearing was set to give some game authority an opportunity to be heard. This proved to be Tom Wann. Mr. Wann rehashed the opposing arguments and the committee recommended "indefinite postponement."

The members of the committee who voted in favor of the bill were: Representatives George Murk, Theodore G. Swanson, C. W. McReynolds, E. R. Ilstrup, Richard H. Silvola, and Reuben H. Tweten. Those opposing or not voting were: Chairman, Ed. Martinson, Representatives Trigg H. Knutson, W. V. Burroughs, Aubrey W. Durlam, Louis W. Hill, Jr., James W. O'Brien, Otto E. Clark, Ray Gessell, Lafayette C. Dixon, O. L. Johnson, Henry W. Mattson, August Omtvedt, E. J. Chilingren. In defense of these last it may be said that some of them felt that they did not know enough about the controversy to vote with discretion,

others believed that they should act to keep the overburdened calendar of legislation free from this controversial measure.

Thus the bill was killed. A new strategy being necessary, I suggested to Ken Morrison, President of the St. Paul Bird Club, that a bit of education might still be helpful. Morrison's ardent temperament demanded something stronger, and under the authority of the Bird Protection Committee of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union a scintillating circular was printed and sent to every member of the Legislature and to 460 newspapers in Minnesota calling for "rescue of the bill." It got results. Friends of the measure in the House knew that the bird groups were actively backing them.

When the non-controversial Omnibus Fish and Game Bill sponsored by the Conservation Department came up for action, Representative Arthur Gillen introduced an amendment to stop dove shooting. It created a big furor. It was charged that the amendment endangered the whole bill for the session was drawing to a close.

Representative Gillen had received a personal letter from the secretary of his county Farm Bureau favoring dove protection. This shows the importance of getting cooperation from other sources.

A whole hour of the valuable time of the House was taken to argue the merits of the Gillen amendment. The vote in its favor was 46 to 43. Opponents called for a reconsideration. The second vote was still stronger for the dove and the final vote, passing the measure, was 97 to 0.

One more hurdle remained. The Senate Conservation Committee had finished its meetings for the session. Unless this committee could pass on the bill, it might be lost. At this point the dove was in the hands of people who had a strong inducement to pro-

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tect it, to save the conservation measure. Senator Ledin called the committee in special meeting, but he gave the opposing sides only five minutes each. This was not very satisfactory to the hunters' groups for they filled the Committee Room, while I was the only representative of the bird groups. Each side briefly presented its arguments and the committee recommended the bill for passage. Later it passed the Senate with a good majority. Senator Ledin voiced the opinion of the members of his committee when he called attention to the many opportunities the opponents of dove protection had been given; that they had not deemed it worth while to appear at the Senate Game and Fish Committee's first hearing; that all sides had received courteous

attention and that he believed the measure should pass.

Other Senators who spoke in its favor were: Senators Milford Davis, Marvin H. Anderson, and Frank E. Dougherty.

For unwearied effort in behalf of protection for mourning doves our bird groups owe especial thanks to Senator Daniel S. Feidt, Representative P. Kenneth Peterson, and Representative Arthur Gillen. We had many other friends in both Senate and House whose names we could not learn, but to whose valiant efforts we owe most sincere gratitude. Let us remember them when our opportunity comes to give recognition of this obligation by our votes.—St. Paul Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The deadline for the September issue of The Flicker is August 10. The editor would appreciate getting news items from your club that can be used in the column, CALL NOTES.

"One bird does not always sing the same song. I have heard a song sparrow sing five or six different songs, standing all the time in plain sight on a fence. In the same way I have known a meadow lark to make six changes in his few notes."—Olive Thorne Miller, "The First Book of Birds."

Seasonal Bird Report

by

Mary Lupient

The weather during February, March, and April was marked by cloudy skies and strong north winds which delayed the advent of spring to the extent that by April 20 none of the wild flowers were blooming in the area around the Twin Cities except the skunk cabbage and by May 1 willows were the only trees showing the first tiny green leaves. The spring season was retarded about two weeks. During the late winter and early spring the cold extended far south of Minnesota so that some of the species of birds migrated later than normally.

On March 22 ducks began arriving in the Minnesota River lowlands where there was still very little open water. On this date blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, pintails, mallards, golden-eyes, American mergansers, and cormorants were observed. By April 4, scaups, ring-necked ducks, canvasbacks, wood ducks, and buffle-heads appeared. It is this observer's opinion that, compared to others years, there were very few ducks in this area. Hunters and sportsmen making observations on these same dates said that the duck population was so small in this and other parts of the state that it might be wise to have a closed duck season.

The number of geese migrating through western Minnesota and the Dakotas was about normal. Only one flock of geese was reported in the Twin City area. About forty snow geese flew over the Cedar Avenue bridge on April 4.

Whistling swans were reported by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Peterson on April 11. In the Minnesota River bottom

lands, thirty-five were counted April 12 by Harvey Gunderson. They remained only a few days.

A report of sandhill cranes, an unusual occurrence in this area, was sent to this writer by Miss Severena C. Holmberg. Miss Holmberg states as follows: "On Sunday, April 13, while at the Izaak Walton League Bass Pond, the members of the Minneapolis Bird Club, including myself, saw two sandhill cranes fly over. They were also observed with a twenty power spotting scope. Apparently they had gotten off the regular migration route."

About a dozen glaucous gulls were reported in the Duluth Harbor on March 30 by Dr. Olgo Lakela. Also that hundreds of redpolls and snow buntings were flying north on that date. Dr. Lakela stated that evening grosbeaks were common and pine grosbeaks were frequently seen in the Duluth area during March. There were reports of grosbeaks from other parts of the state. Among the most interesting was one by Mrs. W. F. Vance who reported evening grosbeaks at the home of H. C. Rector near St. Paul. They came to the feeder February 2 and on May 7 they were still in the vicinity. At times as many as thirty-six were seen. There was only one report on Bohemian waxwings. April 9, William Kilgore saw sixteen.

No large hawk migration was reported though a fair-sized one occurred along the Minnesota River on March 23 and another on April 12.

During the latter part of April, heavy rains and snows caused the Minnesota River to rise to a higher level than usual. It overflowed into the lowlands so that on May 3 the water

was very high forming a lake. Rails in large numbers were seen by this writer on that date. Broken stems of rushes formed rafts along the shore line. Virginia and sora rails daintily walked about feeding on these rafts. They were very tame and though at times they were only a few feet away, they paid no attention to me. In this area there appeared to be less than half the normal number of coots.

Martins arrived on April 12, tree swallows April 18, and the various spe-

cies of sparrows and blackbirds appeared on or near their regular migration dates: Shore birds were scarce up to May 1, semipalmated plovers were observed May 3.

Myrtle warblers were here in numbers on April 24, but a few individuals were seen prior to this date. Palm and black and white warblers were seen here by May 5, though they appeared singly or in flocks of two or three.—
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

NOTES OF INTEREST

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH WINTERS AT LAKE NOKOMIS—Imagine my surprise when I looked out the window on January 2, 1947, and saw a red-breasted nuthatch busily eating suet at my feeder. Not since January, 1942, had I seen one at Lake Nokomis although I had watched for it every winter.

My feeder is fastened to the railing of a small balcony porch. An oak tree a few feet away makes it convenient for the birds to hop from the tree to the feeder. The bark of the oak tree makes a good place to drop the suet or sunflower seeds while eating them.

The red-breasted nuthatch was very tame. One day I stood within two feet of it and shook a rug while it continued to eat suet at the feeder. Only once did I see it pick up a sunflower seed; it was always the suet that it came for. The white-breasted nuthatch came to the feeder every day, too, and ate both suet and sunflower seeds. It was much more wary, however.

The red-breasted nuthatch was a regular daily visitor at my suet feeder, sometimes many times a day, from January 2 until March 16. After that date I did not see it. Apparently it had left for the north.—Severena C. Holmberg, Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

NOTES ON WINTER BIRDLIFE—A hike through the fields and woods in winter often reveals a lack of birdlife. Our very limited population of permanent resident birds may be supplemented by small numbers of half-hardy species. However, these winter excursions may be made more enjoyable by the appearance in the out-of-doors of some of the birds which are winter visitants. Unless we venture afield during the cold season we never gain the acquaintance of the latter group of birds. The following notes from my field records show the presence of some of these winter birds in our state.

November 30, 1946. Near Rice in Benton County a flock of 30 evening grosbeaks presented a beautiful sight while feeding.

December 22, 1946. Jerry Paul, William Longley, and the writer watched a flock of ducks near the Armour Plant in South St. Paul. Some of the birds were resting on Pigs Eye Island. There were about 250 golden-eyes, 125 mallards, and 25 black ducks. The number of black ducks was surprising. Near Hastings we found rough-legged hawks and red-tailed hawks.

December 26, 1946. A male marsh hawk was seen flying over a lake near Montgomery in Le Sueur County.

December 29, 1946. Some of us on the Minnesota Bird Club field trip, while at Cedar Creek Bog, saw red crossbills, white-winged crossbills, and Hudsonian chickadees feeding in the white pine trees near the Corniea's cottage.

January 19, 1947. Near Hastings the Minnesota Bird Club found pine grosbeaks, northern shrike, broad-winged hawk, horned larks, and short-eared owl. A barred owl, which was calling, was of special interest.

January 26, 1947. Today, Jerry Paul and I found a large flock of about 150 purple finches near Cedar Creek Bog in addition to redpolls, red-breasted nuthatches and goldfinches.—Lewis L. Barrett, Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW WINTERING NEAR ELY—Now that spring is here the white-throated sparrow which spent the winter in our garage and wood shelter has become its old sleek self once more. It was in November that we first saw it in the garage. From there it went into the wood shelter where we began to put chicken feed on the chopping block. At first the sparrow was very shy, flitting away at our approach. Later it became friendlier and chirped and ate while we watched. We noticed it had had a broken right wing. The lower three feathers of the wing seemed to be spread out so it was about a half inch lower than the other wing. It never flew very far at a time.

During the long weeks of sub-zero weather when the mercury slid down to -43°, the sparrow was a puff of feathers, no longer chirping or flying, only hopping from the shelter to the feed shed where it had discovered by hopping under the door and over the sill it could enter and eat to its heart's content. When a load of logs was brought into the yard, it would spend some time hopping in and out of the log pile. Now that the stable is open and empty our visitor spends most of its time eating the grass seeds in the manger. Now with the snow disappearing from the woods the sparrow is gone for several days at a time. May it find its way back here next fall if it decides to stay in the northwoods another winter.—Mrs. Corinne Mackie, Ely, Minnesota.

EGRETS NEAR WINONA—Six egrets were seen on the Mississippi River just north of Winona on Thursday, May 1. On May 4 one was seen in a pond in a pasture three miles north of Fairmont, Minnesota.—Mrs. Charles H. Snyder, Minneapolis, Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK BATTLES WITH SNAKE—Last summer I witnessed an odd situation. It took place at our cottage at Lake Marion in McLeod County sixty miles west of Minneapolis.

It was a cold June day and because of the weather, I was out sawing and splitting wood for the stove. I was busy at my task, when all of a sudden I heard a big commotion and ran to see what was causing the excitement. I found a female rose-breasted grosbeak darting upon a garter snake. The snake had a young grosbeak in its mouth. I grabbed a broom lying near by and gave the snake a couple of jabs. It released the young bird and wiggled off to safety. I didn't kill the snake because snakes do good for man.

I put the young bird in a box and the mother grosbeak fed it throughout the day. The next morning, I am sorry to say, the little bird was dead. —Brad Gilbert, Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

EAGLES IN MINNESOTA—To those bird students living in the Twin Cities this winter's birdlife (1946-47) has had a more colorful aspect due to the presence of the bald eagle and golden eagle in nearby areas within about 35 miles of the Twin Cities.

This winter a bald eagle resided in the vicinity of Hastings in Dakota County. On December 22, 1946, an adult bird with its snowy white head and tail was observed by Jerry Paul, William Longley, and the writer. It is questionable whether there was more than one bald eagle in this area although an eagle was seen several times in a single afternoon. On January 19, 1947, sixteen members of the Minnesota Bird Club on a field trip to the same area had an excellent chance to observe the bald eagle. On this occasion our national bird soared overhead on spread wings and showed off its plumage markings and huge size to June, 1947

those of us who watched this aerial display from below. The bald eagle is usually a summer bird in Minnesota. Possibly the reason the bald eagle was attracted to spend the winter in this area along the Mississippi River was because of the duck population which consisted largely of golden-eyes and American mergansers.

The golden eagle is a winter bird in our state. It prefers the more rugged areas of Minnesota. This winter the golden eagle has over-wintered in the Cedar Creek Bog area which is located in Anoka County and Isanti County. This eagle was first reported about the middle of November. A golden eagle was seen on December 29, 1946, by nine members of the Minnesota Bird Club who were making their annual bird count at Cedar Creek Bog. At a later date two golden eagles were observed together in this same area. On January 26, 1947, Mrs. Cora Corniea, Jerry Paul, and the writer were in the bog area and while hiking through a dense stand of pines came out of the woods within good range of a golden eagle. As the huge bird, with a wing spread of possibly seven feet, wheeled in the sky it made a sight long to be remembered.

Milton D. Thompson had a dead golden eagle brought to the Minneapolis Public Library Science Museum about December 20, 1946, after the specimen had been left at the Minneapolis municipal market. It is unfortunate when a man with a gun uses these uncommon big birds as his target. More education as to their value and greater protection for our birds of prey is an absolute necessity.—Lewis L. Barrett, Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE GREATER SCAUP IN MINNESOTA—Although some specimens of the greater scaup have been collected in recent years, it is an uncommon bird in our state according to the records available.

My first experience with the greater scaup was on November 10, 1945, when we bagged four "big bluebills" at Hook Lake in Mc Leod County. One of these four specimens, a male greater scaup was added to the collection at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. It was interesting to again find the greater scaup stopping off in their migration at this same lake during the fall of 1946.

At daylight on November 18, 1946, Al Hollander and the writer were in our duck hunting blinds at Hook Lake in Mc Leod County. The day dawned cold with a temperature of 18° F. and the sky was very overcast. Much of the lake had frozen over the previous night. Practically all of the surrounding lakes and sloughs were ice bound. While waiting for the morning duck flight our attention was attracted to a gray screech owl in a nearby oak tree. First a pair of downy woodpeckers and then two black-capped chickadees tried unsuccessfully to dislodge the screech owl from his perch on the side of the oak tree.

During the morning a brisk northwest wind began to blow and the ducks began to fly. Although the larger flocks of ducks were rafting up in deep water, the smaller flocks visited our decoys in good range. This gave us an opportunity to observe to advantage the following species of ducks: mallards, shoveler, red-head, ring-necked ducks, lesser scaup, golden-eye, buffle-head, hooded merganser and red-breasted mergansers. By noon we had our limit, and in checking over the bag my attention was attracted to two of the large male scaup. The long white wing stripe of these two birds indicated that they were greater scaup. When we arrived at home we made some measurements which definitely proved that these

two bluebills were male greater scaups as was evidenced by the greater body length, the wide, rugged bill and the bigger nail at the end of the bill. The lesser scaup has a shorter body length, narrower bill and smaller nail at the end of the bill.—Lewis L. Barrett, Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER NESTING AT FRONTENAC, GOODHUE COUNTY—One of the highlights of the Minneapolis Bird Club field trip to Old Frontenac, Goodhue County, on Sunday, May 11, 1947, was finding a blue-gray gnatcatcher's nest.

The nest was located on the horizontal limb of an oak tree about 40 feet from the ground. The outside appeared to be thickly covered with lichens. The nest was cylindrical in shape, and about two or two and one-half inches high. Just above the nest was another horizontal branch which should provide not only shelter from sun and rain, when the leaves come out, but also serve to conceal the nest from predators. There seemed to be just enough space between the two horizontal branches for the birds to get in and out with ease.

The birds were working on the inside of the nest—the outside appeared complete—both male and female helping in the construction. They returned to the nest about every 15 seconds, occasionally one came just as the other bird had left. The birds came to gather down from weeds just a few yards from a small group of observers who were sitting on the ground watching them. The gnatcatchers seemed undisturbed by the bird-watchers.

Dr. Roberts states in *BIRDS OF MINNESOTA*, "Miss Jilson has found in the same grove at Frontenac, every August for several years past, what appears to be a family party of these birds, strongly suggesting that at least one pair nests there."—Severena C. Holmberg, Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

CALL NOTES

At a joint meeting of the four Twin City bird clubs on February 21, at the University of Minnesota's Museum of Natural History, Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, Jr., was the speaker. Dr. Pettingill talked on his research work on the nearly extinct whooping cranes, and showed motion pictures taken in the wilds of northern Canada.

Florence Page* and Francis Lee Jaques were awarded the John Burroughs medal in 1946 in recognition of their outstanding nature work, especially in their book, SNOWSHOE COUNTRY. The scene of this book is laid in northern Minnesota.

The John Burroughs medal is awarded annually by the John Burroughs Memorial Association, Inc., the headquarters of which are in the American Museum of Natural History of New York. The award is given for the best writing in the field in which John Burroughs was interested.

Mr. Jaques is now at the University of Minnesota Museum where he is painting the background for a swan habitat.

* * *

The T. S. Roberts Ornithological Club of the St. Cloud Teachers College, which is active in the spring of the year, has been reorganized and the following officers have been elected: President, Edward Reieux, St. Cloud Trailer Camp I; Vice President, Robert Fox, St. Cloud; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Mavis Scott, 827 First Avenue South; Advisor, Dr. G. W. Friedrich.

The Club sponsored an "open house" in the main building of the College on Tuesday, April 22. The St. Cloud Bird Club members were guests.

Those who loaned their binoculars during the war and did not get them back may be interested in this note from Brother Hubert, Glencoe, Missouri—formerly of St. Paul, Minnesota, written April 3.

"Senator McKeller had a law put through Congress to have binoculars replaced to those who have not had theirs returned. The act is known as Public Law No. 649, 79th Congress. I received the replacement pair from the Bureau of Ships, U. S. Navy. They are not quite as good as the ones I turned in. I also received a Navy Citation or Certificate for the lost binoculars.

"The two prize visitors to my window feeder were a pileated woodpecker and a crow. You know we had our winter during Feb. Two 7" snows plus many light ones. It was after the first heavy snow followed by sleet, cold, etc., that we had the concentration of feed seekers. I think the pileated and crow were curious to find out what was going on. I have put out 400 pounds of bird feed so far this year and two bushels of sunflower seed, plus cornbread, pancakes, French toast, stale bread crusts, and suet.

"The phoebes are nesting as are the woodcocks and cardinals. The towhees went through. I have three red-tailed hawks nests—all incubating. One nest was half built January 28."

* * *

The Maine Audubon Society which has been publishing a mimeographed Bulletin for several years has adopted a new format and henceforth it will be printed. It is a quarterly journal. This Bulletin is on our Exchange list.

THE FLICKER

The Audubon Screen Tours have been presented in 67 cities of the United States and Canada this season and have already been booked for 100 cities next year. Many of the Twin City folks considered "Lakelore" by Howard L. Orians as the highlight of the season.

* * *

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its annual meeting on September 8 to 12, 1947, in Toronto, Canada. Hoyes Lloyd, 582 Mariposa Avenue, Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa, Canada, is the president. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, is the secretary.

* * *

The Wilson Ornithological Club will hold its 1947 Annual Meeting at Columbus, Ohio, on the week following Thanksgiving. The Club has members residing in every state in the Union, in most of the provinces in Canada, and in many foreign countries. According to the 1946 report of the secretary, Minnesota has 45 members while Ohio leads with 125.

Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, is the First Vice President. Dr. W. J. Breckenridge, Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is Chairman of the Illustrations Committee. This committee is endeavoring to build up a complete collection of outstanding photographs of North American birds.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology will hold its seventh annual convention on May 9-11 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

The meeting this year is significant because on Sunday, May 11, the Society will unveil its passenger pigeon monument at Wyalusing State Park which is about 100 miles from Madison. According to the Society's convention bulletin this park "is a bird haven unsurpassed for flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. It is the final home of the "Last Passenger Pigeon" in Wisconsin.

"The passenger pigeon monument is set on the cliff edge of Sentinel Ridge in Wyalusing Park. Below the cliff are miles of tree tops which the passenger pigeons once loved and the junction of the great Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers which they once followed to their nesting grounds. In the distance are the bluffs of Iowa over which the setting sun is unusually appropriate."

On the bronze plaque on the monument is a design of the passenger pigeon below which is the following inscription: DEDICATED TO THE LAST WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON SHOT AT BABOCK SEPT., 1899. THIS SPECIES BECAME EXTINCT THROUGH THE AVARICE AND THOUGHTLESSNESS OF MAN. ERECTED BY THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY.

This is undoubtedly the first monument to an extinct American bird.

—S. C. H..

PREPARATION OF COPY FOR THE FLICKER

If possible, manuscripts should be typewritten with double-spacing on one side of white paper (size 8½ x 11 inches). Indent paragraphs preferably ten spaces.

Begin your article about three inches down from the top of the first page. Use an inch and a half margin at the left.

Write your name in the upper left-hand corner of the first page of each article. All pages should be numbered consecutively. Give some word on each page which will serve as a key to identify the story to which the page belongs, as "2 cowbirds."

Use an end-mark to show that your story is completed. The number sign on the typewriter, or the figure 30 preceded and followed by a hyphen may be used.

Titles should be brief, confined to one line if possible, and should indicate the subject clearly.

Underscoring should not be used unless the words underscored are to be set in bold-face type.

Common names of birds should be written in lower case unless the name is a proper noun, as Baltimore oriole. (Some people may disagree with this, but it seems to be the policy used in **THE FLICKER** for a number of years.)

Avoid using the writer, this observer, or the undersigned.

When photographs are included, they should be of excellent quality, clear, and of good contrast, glossy finish.

In the case of quotation from the copy-righted work of any other author, the writer must obtain permission from both the author and the publisher, and give credit in the form prescribed by the publisher.

Write longhand copy on every other line of ruled white paper. Use ink. Print unusual names. Be sure that names are perfectly clear.

If you desire to have your bird club name used at the end of your article, indicate the club name you wish used as some MOU members belong to several clubs.

The author should keep a duplicate copy of his manuscript as protection against loss of the original.

All articles should be original and should not have been published by any other journal or accepted for publication elsewhere.

MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Treasurer's Annual Report

January 1, 1946 to December 31, 1946

Cash on Hand, January 1, 1946	\$	377.18
Receipts		
Books		462.49
Memberships		255.55
Collection for Deficit-MOU Luncheon		14.10
Back Flickers and Reprints		6.14
Disbursements		
Books	\$	428.93
Office Supplies, Postage, etc.		4.44
Publishing and Mailing Flicker (4 issues)		208.95
Bank Expense95
Bird Protection Campaign		4.20
Flowers (Dr. T. S. Roberts)		6.00
Deficit-MOU Luncheon		19.00
Magazine Library, Postage16
Total Receipts	\$	1,115.46
Total Disbursements	\$	672.63
Cash on Hand, December 31, 1946		442.83
	\$	<u>1,115.46</u> <u>\$ 1,115.46</u>
Assets		
Investment in Books	\$	53.94
Cash on Hand, December 31, 1946		442.83
	\$	<u>496.77</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. I. A. Lupient, Treasurer

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Affiliated Societies

CLOQUET BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Louise Stender; Vice President, Miss Doris Anderson; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Helen Berg; Editor, Miss Adeline Peterson.

Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Cloquet High School at 7:30 p.m.

DULUTH BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Joel K. Bronoel; Vice President, Miss Frances Riddle; Secretary, Miss Helen C. Smith; Treasurer, Miss Harriet Lockhart.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month of the school year at 7:30 p.m. at the State Teachers College.

LAKEVIEW BRANCH OF THE DULUTH BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Freida Beier; Vice President, Mrs. John Thomas; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Wernowsky.

Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the homes of the members.

MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers: President, Mrs. G. R. Magney; Vice President, Mrs. Harry W. Rice; Treasurer, Mrs. Edgar W. Bedford; Recording Secretary, Miss A. Glasoe; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Sowden; Field Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Thompson; Auditor, Mrs. Gaylord Davidson.

Meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Walker Branch Library. Field trips during April and May on Tuesdays and Fridays.

MINNEAPOLIS BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Evelyn Behrens; Vice President, Luther B. Gilbert; Secretary, Miss Florence Nelson; Treasurer, Miss Helen Towle.

Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Public Library.

MINNESOTA BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Lewis L. Barrett; Vice President, H. J. Paul; Secretary, Mrs. I. A. Lupient; Treasurer, Harvey Gunderson.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, except in June, July, August, and September, at 8:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History.

ST. CLOUD BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Monica Misho; Vice President, Mrs. Charles Beacom; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Loretta Rosenberger.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from October through March in the committee room of the public library at 8:00 p.m.

T. S. ROBERTS ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Officers: President, Edward Reioux; Vice President, Robert Fox; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Mavis Scott; Advisor, G. W. Friedrich.

Meetings are held bi-monthly February through May at the St. Cloud Teachers College.

ST. PAUL BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Kenneth Morrison; Vice President, Leonard Lustig; Treasurer, R. A. Kortmann; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Irene Knapton; Recording Secretary, Miss Ruth Arnquist; Directors at Large, Mrs. R. M. Elliott and Miss Genevieve Clark.

Meetings are held at the St. Paul public library at 7:45 p.m., the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May.

THE FLICKER

VOLUME 19

SEPTEMBER, 1947

NUMBER 3



Published Quarterly by
THE
MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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The Flicker

Organ of the *MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION*

Published Quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

THE FLICKER is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Dues for all members, \$1.00 per annum, should be paid in advance to the treasurer.

All articles and communications for publications and exchanges should be addressed to the editor.

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THE FLICKER

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Itasca Tours Inaugurate Audubon Program

by

Ken Morrison

Audubon Wildlife Tours were conducted during the summer in Itasca State Park for the first time in the interior United States. Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, with the cooperation of the Minnesota Division of State Parks, these tours were offered during July and August as a part of the nature and conservation education program being initiated by the Society in Minnesota.

Similar tours have proved very popular in Atlantic and Gulf states and in California. The Audubon station wagon left Douglas Lodge in Itasca Park at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. every day except Monday and Thursday for three-hour trips to points of natural history interest throughout the park's 32,000 acres.

Because birds are rather perverse in that they will not always appear at the same place at the same time every day, we attempted to acquaint the Audubon Tourists with all phases of the rich natural history in the Itasca region. Trees, wildflowers, mammals, geology, etc., were all dealt with as the opportunity presented itself. We observed the effect of an over-population of deer on the natural reproduction of trees and conjectured concerning the advisability of the trapping of wolves that was for so long

permitted in Itasca Park. We concluded that undoubtedly the lack of balance in the predator-prey relationship in the area was an important factor in creating the conditions that led to the necessity of opening the Park to deer hunting.

In general, wildlife in Itasca Park did not seem to be as abundant as it had been in several recent years. This was especially true of the smaller mammals which must have been decimated by disease or some other adverse factor or factors. The only representatives of the larger mammals which I observed during July and August were three deer.

As usual, bird populations in the Park offered a varied pattern. I did not see a single grouse and did not talk to anyone who had. If, as contended, these birds are supposed to be on the upward trend of their cycle, it will seemingly be a long hard climb. Song birds were generally abundant and the birds of prey were quite well represented. Cedar waxwings, particularly, were extremely common. A low branch of a burr oak near our cabin supported a nest of these sleek birds that was just 52 inches above the ground. The last of the five young waxwings left the nest on August 2.

There were various locations where



Courtesy Minneapolis Sunday Tribune

Kenneth Morrison, Minnesota Representative of the National Audubon Society, points out to Mr. and Mrs. Sig Heller and Blanche Door (right), all of Minneapolis, the holes in a tree made by a sapsucker.

Arctic three-toed woodpeckers, Hudsonian chickadees, and Canada jays could be seen with a certain degree of regularity. Fresh workings of the pileated woodpecker were not uncommon but the bird itself was rarely seen.

All in all, the Audubon Wildlife Tours in Itasca Park were well received. More than 300 persons from some 20 states signed our Audubon guest register. Each of them, we believe, went away with a little better conception of what nature has to offer to those who will but take the trouble to look. Also, most of them left with a clearer idea of what the National Audubon Society is trying to do both nationally and in Minnesota.

The primary objective of the Minnesota Representative of the National Audubon Society is to increase in this region public awareness of the value and need of conservation of soil, water, plants, and wildlife and their relation to public welfare. Another important objective is to advance the strength and influence of both the National Audubon Society and its branches and affiliates in this area.

Because many people are not aware of the diversity and scope of the National Audubon Society's activities, I should like to present this brief resume:

Education. The Society promotes interest in nature study and endeavors



Courtesy Minneapolis Sunday Tribune

Here Donna Pinski, St. Paul, holds one of the baby raccoons at Itasca State Park, where the Audubon Wildlife Tours were conducted for the first time this past summer.

to build healthy attitudes toward conservation by

1. conducting at cost the Audubon Nature Camp in Maine and the Audubon Nature Center in Greenwich, Connecticut, where courses are given for adult leaders. Special training is provided in nature study, and methods of presenting it, to teachers, youth leaders, and others with a pro-

fessional or hobby interest in nature. Through these students the message of conservation education is carried to thousands of children and adults each year.

2. sponsoring Audubon Junior Clubs in schools and children's organizations throughout North America. (Over seven million children have enrolled).
3. presenting Audubon Screen

Tours that bring top-quality nature lecturers five times a year to more than 100 communities throughout the nation.

4. conducting Audubon Wildlife Tours that take people into the field in various parts of the nation to observe and study natural history and conservation at first-hand.
5. publishing inexpensive, informative pamphlets on nature study and conservation: School Nature League Bulletins and Charts; Audubon Field Notes, now a separate magazine; a series of illustrated pamphlets entitled, "Nature Activities for Schools and Clubs"; and "The Audubon Teachers' Guide."
6. publishing Audubon Magazine, containing profusely illustrated nature articles and timely information regarding conservation.
7. publishing and distributing free literature.
8. issuing timely news releases to papers and periodicals.
9. making easily available through sales and rentals: books, slides, motion pictures in color, photographs and prints, and various nature study accessories.

Protection. The Society patrols and protects sanctuaries, large tracts of land comprising winter refuges and breeding grounds for various birds and other forms of wildlife in danger of extinction.

Research. The Society is constantly ascertaining facts regarding the status of persecuted species and what measures are practical for improvement of conditions. Study is also conducted to determine details of the habits of species threatened with extinction, in order that more effective

methods for their preservation may be adopted.

Legislation. The Society keeps its members as well as affiliated and branch societies informed concerning pending state and federal legislation which would be helpful or harmful to the preservation of wildlife, and makes recommendations for the enactment of better laws for wildlife protection.

We are developing an ambitious Audubon program for Minnesota. If successful, it will have a marked effect in increasing public interest in our great out-of-doors. We Minnesotans have more at stake in this conservation business than do the residents of states that are less bountifully blessed. As individuals we are relatively helpless. As members of an old-established organization that speaks out with authority and determination, we can do much, for example, in lessening the persecution of many interesting and valuable forms of wildlife that are moving down fading trails toward extinction. To accomplish what needs to be done, we must have the active support of every interested person. That means we need YOU as an Audubon member. And if there is anyone reading over your shoulder, we need his or her help, too. It would be a great encouragement if you will, right now, sit down and write me a postal card saying in substance: "I want to help support the Audubon program. Send me information about membership." If you are already a member, say that you will try to enlist others. Address your card to National Audubon Society, Minnesota Office, 3544 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis 8, Minnesota.—Minnesota Representative, National Audubon Society, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A Roadside Migration Study

by

W. J. Breckenridge

From many standpoints the most interesting time of year to take a car trip in a north-south direction is spring just as the ice on the lakes is breaking up. At such times the migrating birds are apt to be held up temporarily in their rather halting progress toward the north by the last of winter's snowstorms. My wife and I undertook just such a trip on Wednesday and Thursday, April 23 and 24, 1947, going from Minneapolis to Bemidji the first day and returning the next.

As we left Minneapolis the ice in the city lakes was just about gone; and although the weather was not balmy, there was no snow on the ground. The morning dawned chilly and the rain falling steadily threatened to continue throughout the day. A bird list was tucked in the windshield and we carefully checked all species observed. North of Elk River the ponds began to show more and more ice, and by the time Onamia was reached the lake surfaces were still largely ice covered. This was an unusually fortunate situation for bird observations since the open water usually extended in a narrow belt along the shores, and thus the migrating ducks were forced to alight in many cases nearer the road than they otherwise might. In Lake Onamia, just north of that town, a scattering of ringneck ducks, American golden-eyes, lesser scaups, and an occasional bufflehead and hooded merganser was seen, and with binoculars we got some unusually good looks at these birds. A single Bonaparte's gull mingled with some ring-bills there and several hundred ducks were concentrated in a larger open area at the northeast corner of this lake. From this observation we

began to suspect that the lakes farther north could not be very favorable for ducks.

Along the west shore of Mille Lacs we encountered a solidly ice covered lake with only a very narrow strip of water along shore. The road skirts the very beach for long distances and here the common duck was the red-breasted merganser. Courtship was at its height, and little groups of three to eight or ten males were found forcing their attentions onto single females. So ardent was their wooing that our gliding up to an occasional stop on the shoulder of the highway sometimes only a hundred feet or so away did not frighten them.

This merganser is distinctly more slender than either the hooded or American, and the extremely long narrow bill and long sparse crest of slender feathers tending to separate into two tufts one above the other we saw very clearly. A courting male would approach the lady of his choice with neck outstretched and bill a little above a horizontal. Then suddenly it would bob down in front as to nearly submerge the forward part of the body, open the bill and utter an odd, subdued, rattley call. As it regained its swimming attitude it often kicked up its heels as to throw out behind a considerable splash of water exactly as does the American golden-eye during its courtship. The fact that some females paid little or no attention to the display did not appear to discourage the males, but now and then a female would return the bow of the male with a similar display. Whether or not this indicated a favoring of that particular male or not we could not determine, but it

seemed reasonable to suppose it did. On frequent occasions previously I had watched this performance at a distance with binoculars but never before had I had such a ringside seat for the display.

Along the road skirting Mille Lacs we found myriads of juncos rising up from the gravelly shoulders as the car approached. It suggested a furrow being turned by a rapidly moving plow so numerous were the birds. Robins also flushed in large numbers here as well as on the road west from Garrison.

As we approached Brainerd snow patches began to appear. By the time we reached the city the ground was completely covered by snow fallen the previous night. Apparently the juncos and robins had been delayed in their migration by this sudden drop in temperature and they were "piling up" in that area awaiting better traveling conditions. Many had already invaded the snow-covered belt, however, since both these birds were fairly numerous all the way up to Bemidji.

A few miles north of Brainerd the weather began clearing, and we left behind the snow covered belt which had extended over a strip only about twenty to thirty miles wide. The lakes in this area were even more extensively ice covered with open pools only about the mouths of inlets or narrow shore strips inviting continual scrutiny as we passed. In fact, we bird people undoubtedly constitute a distinct traffic hazard on highways our attention is so often not on the road ahead where it really should be, and our unexpected stops far out in the country where ordinary travelers would never think of stopping must surprise many non-naturalist drivers.

At Bemidji, a fair sized open pond extended out into Lake Bemidji at the point where the Mississippi enters the lake, and we had a good chance to see several Holboell's grebes as well as a

few American mergansers and golden-eyes, buffleheads and numerous loons.

At Bemidji we enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. A. F. Elliott of the Teachers College. That evening I took a group of townspeople as well as students on a second hand field trip via the motion picture projector and the next morning we were off on the return trip to Minneapolis. Our bird list had grown by then to nearly fifty species, and we were anxiously scanning the roadside ponds and woods for additional species, but naturally only an occasional new species appeared since we returned over the same route.

At Hackensack we stopped to study a soaring turkey vulture and were surprised to spot another, and still another, until we realized that a party of five were leisurely soaring their way northward. On Gull Lake we saw considerable active courting of the American golden-eye, but all along the ice choked lake margins the red-breasted merganser was the abundant duck and undoubtedly several hundred were seen on the trip.

The open water on Lake Onamia had expanded by the time we returned and it was thickly dotted with swimming birds. Examination with binoculars proved that most of them were loons and I was astonished to count 116 which could be positively identified. I feel sure that the number actually there would have come very close to 175. Never before had I seen such a concentration of these birds. The explanation was simple, however, after seeing the ice sealed lakes to the north.

Finally a dead tree loaded with big black cormorants on a small lake near Zimmerman gave us the last new species for the trip, and we pulled in at home with a list of fifty-six species for our two-day jaunt.—Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Procuring Nesting Records

by

Brother Pius

For a number of years Brother Hubert Lewis has conducted hikes for students interested in birds and this year I am trying to continue his work. We may say that one of the most fascinating events of our bird hikes is securing the nesting data. This year we missed the pleasant association with Brother Hubert, an enthusiastic, experienced birdman and had to rely on our own resources.

Our survey included identifying, in nesting areas which were the same as previous years, the recurring species and nests. In March we found the red-shouldered hawk's nest; and in April, nests of robins, bluebirds, nuthatches, and horned larks. May nestings that we found included the kingfisher, a broad-winged hawk, the English sparrows, orioles, wrens, and brown thrashers. The additional species for June amounted to 18, including the wood thrush, chickadee, and redstart. In July we found the indigo bunting, the black tern, and the goldfinch—a total of 40 species.

At Big Sandy Lake we found 10 yellow warbler nests, removed cowbird eggs from two nests, and watched a yellow warbler bury another—the job requiring three days. Later on in the summer we took a cowbird egg out of a nest of a Brewer's blackbird and observed one cowbird egg in the nest of a rose-breasted grosbeak and another in that of a redstart, but we were unable to remove them.

An unusual observation was made of the song sparrow's nest located underneath a rootlet about 20 feet from shore. It had six eggs in it on June 6, and young in it on June 9. Most prob-

ably the eggs were laid during the week of the twentieth of May.

Our disappointment was great in not finding a veery's nest, since a pair of them had inhabited the area around a small inland pool. On one occasion we quietly observed the female attempting to gain her nest but being boisterously detained by a robin. Another time we saw her frightened away by a crow.

Under the supervision and instigation of Brother Hubert, about a hundred bird houses for tree swallows were set up on the Fort Snelling reservation three years ago. This year we failed to see any swallows in these houses. However, on July 10, we did see some young ones resting in trees.

While observing three Brewer's blackbird nests, all within a radius of 20 feet, we were attacked by them. On another occasion we were attacked by black terns. We noticed that the blackbirds, always missing us, came from all directions; whereas, the terns, always coming from behind, were sure to strike us. While using a mirror for observations in a bank swallows nest, we were startled by the plummeting of the birds and we had a similar experience at a flicker's nest when the young came forth. In the latter case we were obliged to return the young to the nest.

We were very fortunate to observe the red-eyed vireo building her pendant nest 6 feet above the ground, and we found other nests as high as 25 feet. Hearing the least flycatcher singing, we were led to investigate and were rewarded by observing her carry building material to a neatly concealed nest in the crotch of a tree. All the time the

male was on guard giving moral support and issuing warning cries.

When we saw a chickadee dive into an old stump, we went over to investigate and found six young without feathers. A week later we saw the female go into the nest with a worm; but on her next trip we became aware that unseen eyes were watching us when the male started uttering warning cries and the female approached very cautiously, finally coming over the nest. Just then the male became very vociferous and the female reluctantly flew away. We now knew that it was also time for us to leave.

A listless kingbird upon a wire became an exhibit of very effective gyrations when a butterfly flew within 20 feet of it. Including a backward motion in its flight it captured its prey and then retired to its point of vantage to await another hapless victim. All through the summer we have seen great numbers of indigo buntings and northern yellow-throats.

We were surprised to find the nest of a black-billed cuckoo. As we stopped to rest, our disturbance flushed the bird off the nest, which was hidden in the underbrush about three feet away. The nest contained two young and two eggs. Two days later there were three young and one egg. A week later there was one young dead in the nest.

We were unable to visit Pigs-Eye Island this year because of the flooded conditions and rainy weather. We observed from a distance that the great blue and black-crowned night herons were present. At Rice Lake we did observe many of their nests as usual.

A peculiar nesting place for a wren was a hole drilled into the brick wall of a building. Another wren built in

the top opening of some long boards that surrounded a guide wire. A third used a bird house with a large opening that was intended for tree swallows.

We had a slow start securing data on the goldfinch nests this year as the rain and cold weather prevented the early growth of thistles. To date, July 30, we have 22 nests in thistles and 3 in small trees. The building of new houses has accounted for the destruction of three of the better habitats of these birds and another habitat is beset by a cat. As last year's data listed over 200 nests, we hope to list a great number during the middle of August when the nesting activity of the goldfinch is at its highest. While looking for the nests, we enjoy the cheery, inquiring song of the bird.

The goldfinch nest is very pretty and cup-shaped when new. It is firmly embedded in a three-pronged crotch and fastened to each prong at the top. It is built principally from the down of the Canadian thistle with some grass and long fibers that the goldfinch strips from weeds. At the end of the season, however, it is fouled and flattened out. Last week while looking for goldfinch nests east of the archery targets in Highland Park, we were reminded of the notoriety that the goldfinch got in the daily papers. In the course of a conversation with a gentleman in the park that day, the latter remarked, "Since reading the articles about goldfinches in the newspaper, I am beginning to see them for the first time, around my own house." He did not know that we had found goldfinch nests around his house in previous years.—Cretin High School, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Expanded Natural History Opportunities in our State Parks

by

W. J. Breckenridge

Many amateur bird enthusiasts have probably had the experience of dropping in at one of our many State Parks to look over the natural features preserved in the parks as well as to do some bird observing there and may have come away wishing that more information and guidance regarding the park, its natural features, and its usage by the public were available. The State Parks Division of the Conservation Department has been keenly conscious of this shortcoming, but its lack of funds has prevented its developing this phase of its work. Early this spring the Minnesota Museum of Natural History suggested to Director Fiero of the Division of State Parks that the Museum extend its services toward instigating some natural history guidance work in the State Parks. This offer was immediately accepted by Mr. Fiero, and with substantial aid from the Division of Parks a beginning was made this summer in two of the state parks, Itasca and St. Croix State Parks.

The major project was started in Itasca Park where Mr. Donald Lewis, Visual Education Advisor on the staff of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, took over the duties of Park Naturalist for the summer months. His work has consisted of three major activities, evening lectures, conducted trail hikes and the renovation of the Park Museum exhibits. Usually three evenings a week were devoted to illustrated talks on various phases of natural history, mainly of the park itself. These were given either by Mr. Lewis or some capable visitor contacted by him who was willing to discuss his

September, 1947

specialty with the park visitors. These were conducted either at Forest Inn near Douglas Lodge or at the Public Camp Grounds. Three separate trails were reopened for the conducted hikes centering largely at Douglas Lodge. These trail trips were announced ahead of time on numerous bulletin boards and no charge was made for the trips which usually took about two hours. A well-labeled self-guiding nature trail, The Dr. Thomas S. Roberts Nature Walk, was opened shortly after the middle of August in memory of the extensive natural history studies conducted by Dr. Roberts in the early years of Itasca Park.

The renovation of the Museum near the Mississippi Headwaters and installation of new exhibits was done in cooperation with both the Minnesota Historical Society through the effective work of Mr. Sackett, its Field Secretary, and the Division of State Parks. Exhibits depicting phases of both the human history of the park and the natural history of the region have been installed. The building is on the verge of being reopened to the public at the time of this writing (August 20, 1947).

Work of a different nature was tried at St. Croix State Park. Early in June Dr. Breckenridge and Mr. Gunderson of the Museum staff visited St. Croix State Park to establish self-guiding nature trails for Park visitors. Three separate trails of from two to three miles in length serving the Public Camping Grounds and the St. John's Landing Group Camp area were decided upon. With the enthusiastic help of Mr. Norman Reitan, Superintendent of the Park

and the staff of the St. John's Landing Camp, numerous trees, shrubs, geological formations, areas harboring certain birds, and other natural features were marked by means of numbered signs. Mimeographed guide sheets were made available at the various headquarters for the guests. On a later visit early in August another similar trail was established at the request of the Norway Point campers for their use. These trails are experimental in character, and a study of the use made of these at the end of the tourist season will be used for next year's trails.

In addition to the establishment of trails several natural history motion picture programs were put on by the Museum staff members for the St. Croix campers, group camp counsellors and leaders. Also a number of the Museum's small portable display cases

dealing with birds and mammals of the St. Croix area were hung throughout the summer in the Contact Station Museum at St. Croix Park.

By thus extending its work to the State Parks during the summer the Museum makes greater use of its exhibit materials and personnel in public natural history education; the Division of State Parks benefits by having more activities to offer its park visitors; and greater use is made of these preserved areas and greater enjoyment from them not only by the people of Minnesota but by visitors from many other states. We hope the people will make increasing use of these facilities and, of course, suggestions for improving the various services will be appreciated.—
Minnesota Museum of Natural History,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

WATCH FOR BANDED EVENING GROSBEAKS

Who has seen but not reported any evening grosbeaks wearing colored bands? Mrs. B. M. Schaub, 159 Elm Street, Northampton, Mass., would appreciate very much hearing from anyone who may happen to see any of these banded grosbeaks. The information desired is: locality; date and time seen; number of birds in the flock; number of birds wearing a blue, white, green, orange or red band; if red, whether the band is on the left or right leg; and lastly, if the bird is wearing an aluminum band only. Getting this information will require very careful and accurate observation. This data is for a project of the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and if sufficient data can be collected it will help to answer some of the problems concerning the movements of the evening grosbeaks.

Field Trip in Houston County

by

Milton D. Thompson

On August 2, 1947, Whitney Eastman, William Pieper, and I took an all-day field trip to Houston County to try to verify the observations of Tom Bergerud who traveled the area on bicycle on June 24. We realized that locating warblers in August would offer difficulties but this was the first date available to us for these observations. We did not find either the yellow-breasted chat or the prothonotary warbler as reported by Tom Bergerud on June 24 (See Notes of Interest). We contacted Dr. Charles A. Stewart of the Iowa Ornithological Society at New Albin, Iowa. He has been keeping careful records on this area and indicated that both birds are now abundant in southeastern Minnesota.

The area is extremely interesting. It has a bird population whose density exceeds anything I have ever experienced even during spring migration. The valleys of the Mississippi and its tributaries are 500 to 600 feet deep in this unglaciated area. The hills are so rugged that even cattle are not grazing on the majority of them. These hills are heavily over-grown with trees and understory shrubs on all but their southern exposure. The plant life in the valley reflects the warmer Carolinian zone. There the dominant trees are walnut and hickory while higher on the banks you find birch and red cedar representing a drier and colder habitat. Many of these steep valleys are topped by bare vertical escapements of sedimentary rock towering for more than 100 feet. The river's valley is extremely wide and the back waters of the Mississippi are a maze of heavily wooded islands. As a result the area offers extensive

food and cover for an extremely heavy population of birds.

Our list for the day included 79 species identified by sight and 3 identified by call.

We found all six of our Minnesota species of swallows, including a nesting colony of cliff swallows nesting on a barn $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Brownsville, Minnesota.

The most abundant birds in the area appeared to be the cardinals and the indigo buntings. Both black and yellow-billed cuckoos were very common. The field sparrow was the most abundant sparrow.

The birds of prey were interesting. We observed two red-tailed hawks, one red-shouldered hawk, 3 adult bald eagles, and a beautiful duck hawk perched on a dead limb at the top of a precipitous cliff 600 feet above us, but the 20 power spotting scope brought every detail of this spectacular hawk to us.

The prize find of the day was the discovery of a pair of Carolina wrens with four young birds. The young birds were out of the nest but still not agile enough to quickly escape. All three of us were able to approach within 15 feet and observe the family at our leisure while the old birds attempted to hide from us.

Probably of equal interest to the birds observed were the gaps in the list. Not a single bird was observed swimming on the Mississippi during the entire day; nor was a single tern or gull observed. Later during migration the river will become a main highway for thousands of water birds but

many were hiding in the marshes while in eclipse. Yet you can drive by any of the little sloughs and marshy lakes in the area of the cities and see dozens of teal, mallards, and ruddy ducks, as

well as grebes, coots, and terns. The marshy backwaters of the Mississippi for 150 miles showed no sign of these common birds.—Minneapolis Public Library Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

BOOK REVIEW

SILENT WINGS—A MEMORIAL TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

Edited by Walter E. Scott. Published by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, c/o Walter E. Scott, Mendota Beach Heights, Madison 5, Wisconsin. 44 pages, 15 illustrations. Price \$1.00.

The occasion for the publication of the booklet, SILENT WINGS, was the unveiling of a monument dedicated to the memory of the last Wisconsin passenger pigeon at Wyalusing Park at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology on May 11, 1947. The last Wisconsin passenger pigeon was killed at Babcock in September, 1899. The last passenger pigeon known to exist anywhere died in captivity in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens on September 1, 1914. This mounted bird may be seen in the Natural History Building in Washington, D. C.

The talk "On a Monument to a Pigeon" by Professor Aldo Leopold of the Department of wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin is given in condensed form.

The major part of the booklet is the work of Dr. A. W. Schorger who is one of the leading authorities on this extinct bird. His two articles, "The Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin and the Problems in its History" and "The Great Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon Nesting in 1871," give us authentic information obtained through painstaking research on the range, abundance, history, and habits of the passenger pigeon.

The monument dedication address, "Attitude in Conservation," by Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson, Chief of the Section of Biological Surveys, Division of Wildlife Research of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., gives five major factors necessary to preserve wildlife for posterity. Dr. Jackson also emphasizes the need for conservation education among the youth of today.

The booklet is well illustrated. The frontispiece in color of the male passenger pigeon is reproduced from the original painting by William Pope.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is to be commended for making this valuable and historical document available to hundreds. It should be in the library of every bird student and conservationist.—Severena C. Holmberg, Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Seasonal Bird Report

by

Mary Lupient

For the most part the month of May in Minnesota was cold and cloudy, relieved now and then by a warm sunny day. In places severe frosts occurred during the latter part of the month and May 28 several inches of snow fell over the northern one-third of the state. In June the average temperature was below normal and precipitation was 25 per cent above normal, but July was marked by dry hot weather. The early part of August was also hot and dry. For several days in succession temperatures were over 90 degrees and twice the mercury rose above 100 degrees making the highest recording for the state in six years. At the time of this writing, August 9, the extreme drouth is disastrously affecting the corn and other crops. Though the weather was somewhat changeable and abnormal it does not definitely account for the remarkably uncommon migration, described later in this report, of certain species of birds.

One unusual and interesting report from the western part of Minnesota by Arch Klawou was received by the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. Mr. Klawou wrote as follows: "Starting on May 12 I noticed what I thought were several flocks of golden plover in the air, but did not pay much attention to it as we have always had fair numbers of these birds during migration. However, the more I saw the more interested I became and along in the afternoon of the 13th I started counting. I would watch a flock and if roads permitted I would drive up to them. All of the birds seemed tired and would go to sleep when they settled down. I counted 784 birds that afternoon. The next day the country was full of them and I

know I am not over-estimating when I say I saw between 3,000 and 4,000 birds that afternoon. On the morning of the 15th I started seeing marbled godwits. On May 18 on a trip of about ten miles, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., I counted 612 godwits from the road. In over 40 years of observing birds in this area, I have never seen over 10 to 25 godwits in the spring or fall."

The spring migration of shore birds through the area about the Twin Cities was unusually small. Only the common species were reported and they were here May 14. A flock of 11 long-billed dowitchers tarried at a pond for a few days about the middle of May. Dowitchers in a flock that size is unusual in this section. July 14, several small flocks of returning greater and lesser yellow-legs had arrived. August 8, thousands of shorebirds fed in the marshes at the Cedar Avenue bridge and near the Izaak Walton Bass Pond. The flocks consisted mostly of pectoral sandpipers and yellow-legs, but there was a goodly number of the small peeps there also. The size of the returning flocks indicate that their numbers probably have not diminished and in the spring they either migrated hurriedly through this area unnoticed, or passed through some other part of the state.

The warbler migration was uncommon for the reason that while small waves comprising most of the species of warblers arrived on time, great waves of them came later than usual. A wave at Frontenac on May 11 was reported by Lewis L. Barrett. All of the species of warblers listed for Minnesota, except three, were seen. On May 14 a prothonotary warbler and a

small flock of blue-winged warblers were at the Izaak Walton Bass Pond. The annual meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union was held on May 17, at St. John's University, 15 miles northwest of St. Cloud. Members who participated in the field trip on that date reported all of the warblers listed on the Minnesota check list, though they did not occur in large numbers. May 23, a great wave of warblers, most of them Wilson's warblers, northern yellow-throats, and yellow warblers filled the air with a bedlam of singing at the Izaak Walton Bass Pond. Among them were a few pine warblers and many vireos and thrushes. Another huge wave of warblers, thrushes, and vireos passed through the Twin Cities on May 28. With them were flycatchers and scarlet tanagers. July 8, a male Nashville warbler was singing at Cedar Creek. Though it normally nests farther north, there is the possibility that it could be nesting there. However, that was not determined. A white-throated sparrow sang at Cedar Creek through June and part of July. It has been known to nest there in the past and though the nest was not found, it is reasonable to believe it nested there again this season.

Large flocks of Eastern goldfinches occurred in and near the Twin Cities during May from the 4th on through the month. Dandelions bloomed profusely on the campus behind the Minnesota Museum of Natural History and May 21, hundreds of goldfinches fed and twittered among them. In the bright sunlight they were the same color as the flowers and as they took very short flights to and fro it appeared as if the blossoms had taken wings. A very lovely picture.

This apparently was not a dickcissel year in Minnesota. A few called from a meadow near Rochester, Minnesota, on

May 18. There have been no other reports.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Jaques saw a black duck in the vicinity of White Bear Lake, May 27. Being seen on this late date led to the supposition that it might be nesting there. Several attempts by Harvey Gunderson and others to locate the nest were of no avail.

That the nesting season was retarded for certain species of birds is indicated by the fact that Dr. W. J. Breckenridge reported a wood duck in his yard with 19 eggs that hatched on May 29 (May 18 last year), and that another nest with 26 eggs was destroyed by predators just at the time of hatching, May 27. Later a third nest containing 2 eggs and the broken shells of 10 more eggs was found. Evidently ten young had been successfully hatched. In the three nests there were 57 eggs which, due to the fact that they were in a yard around a dwelling, establishes an unusual record for wood ducks.

Two downy broods of red-breasted mergansers were seen on July 24 by Dr. Breckenridge, 14 miles east of Grand Marais on Lake Superior.

Several members of the Minnesota Bird Club visited Heron Lake over the Memorial Day week end. They found a large colony of Franklin's gulls nesting there and estimated that there were from 50 to 60 nests per acre. Most of the nests examined contained three eggs. A few Forster's tern nests, each containing three eggs, were also found. About 20 Forster's terns were reported by A. C. Rosenwinkel at a slough about at the city limits of Minneapolis on Cedar Avenue. He saw them during the month of June.

Dr. W. J. Breckenridge found an Arkansas kingbird nest containing one egg, July 4, Anoka County. This bird may be extending its range eastward.

There was an adult with one young at the Izaak Walton Bass Pond on July 19.

Two American egrets were seen flying about at Heron Lake on May 30 by

Harvey Gunderson and one was reported near Shakopee by Dr. W. J. Breckenridge on May 14.—Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has issued Circular No. 11 (1946) entitled, DDT: ITS EFFECT ON FISH AND WILDLIFE by Clarence Cottam and Elmer Higgins. It is a preliminary report and is far from complete although it gives a brief and interesting summary of the known effects that DDT has upon the fishery and wildlife resources of the country, including some studies on its effects on birds. More complete accounts will be made when investigations are completed. Copies of this Circular may be had for 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

BACK COPIES OF THE FLICKER WANTED

The files of the MOU are entirely lacking in certain early issues of The Flicker. Anyone having copies previous to 1938 who would consider parting with them would render the organization a great favor if they would contact Mrs. I. A. Lupient. Frequent requests come in for early numbers to complete files of some members, and we are very anxious to accommodate such persons.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS IN MINNESOTA

1947-1948 Season

The Audubon Screen Tours that were enjoyed by natural science enthusiasts in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth last year are to be shown in two additional Minnesota cities this season, namely, Northfield and St. Cloud. These programs are presented in the interest of wildlife protection, wise use of natural resources, and conservation education. Audubon Screen Tours bring to you the finest natural history lecturers, who personally present the best in all-color outdoor motion pictures on a variety of wildlife subjects. A list of the lectures is given below. Contact your local club for further details.

Duluth

- Oct. 11 - WILDERNESS MISCHIEF - Olin S. Pettingill, Jr.
- Nov. 3 - BIRD SHOOTING WITH A CAMERA - Martin K. Bovey
- Jan. 17 - OUR HERITAGE IN THE ROCKIES - Karl H. Maslowski
- Feb. 14 - THIS CURIOUS WORLD IN NATURE - William Ferguson
- Apr. 29 - WILDLIFE DOWN EAST - Carl W. Buchheister

Minneapolis

- Oct. 2 - WILDERNESS MISCHIEF - Olin S. Pettingill, Jr.
- Nov. 1 - BIRD SHOOTING WITH A CAMERA - Martin K. Bovey
- Jan. 21 - SAGUAROLAND - Karl H. Maslowski
- Feb. 9 - THIS CURIOUS WORLD IN NATURE - William Ferguson
- Apr. 26 - WILDLIFE DOWN EAST - Carl W. Buchheister

Northfield

- Oct. 7 - SOUTH ALONG THE SUWANEE - Allan Cruickshank
- Nov. 16 - BIRD SHOOTING WITH A CAMERA - Martin K. Bovey
- Jan. 19 - SAGUAROLAND - Karl H. Maslowski
- Feb. 12 - THIS CURIOUS WORLD IN NATURE - William Ferguson
- Mar. 27 - CANADA WEST - Bert Hartwell

St. Cloud

- Oct. 9 - SOUTH ALONG THE SUWANEE - Allan Cruickshank
- Nov. 5 - BIRD SHOOTING WITH A CAMERA - Martin K. Bovey
- Jan. 20 - OUR HERITAGE IN THE ROCKIES - Karl H. Maslowski
- Feb. 11 - THIS CURIOUS WORLD IN NATURE - William Ferguson
- Mar. 23 - MUSIC OF THE OUT-OF-DOORS - Bert Harwell

St. Paul

- Oct. 6 - WILDERNESS MISCHIEF - Olin S. Pettingill, Jr.
- Nov. 7 - BIRD SHOOTING WITH A CAMERA - Martin K. Bovey
- Jan. 15 - OUR HERITAGE IN THE ROCKIES - Karl H. Maslowski
- Feb. 10 - THIS CURIOUS WORLD IN NATURE - William Ferguson
- Apr. 22 - WILDLIFE DOWN EAST - Carl W. Buchheister

—S. C. H.

The deadline for manuscripts for the December issue of The Flicker is November 10. Please send your material in as early as possible so as not to overwork the editor at the time of the deadline. Nesting data should be sent in at once in order to have time to compile the information.

NOTES OF INTEREST

TWO ADDITIONS TO THE WILDLIFE OF ITASCA PARK—During the 1946 session of the University of Minnesota Biological Station at Itasca State Park, two mammals were added to Swanson's list of Wildlife of Itasca Park. (*The Flicker*, Vol. 15, No. 4, pp. 41-49).

Walter Mielke obtained two specimens of the northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus* spp.) by diligent trapping on Bear Paw Point adjacent to the campus area. The pelage and measurements of these animals (female, length 262 mm., tail 125 mm., hind foot 33 mm., and ear 22 mm., caught August 12, 1946, and a male, length 283 mm., tail 127 mm., hind foot 34 mm. and ear 22 mm., caught August 26, 1946) indicate the animals to be the Mearns flying squirrel which would extend the range of this subspecies westward from Elk River, Minnesota. However, further study is desirable as Itasca Park lies near the juncture of the range of three subspecies of this squirrel.

While studying small mammal populations in a marshy area along Floating Bog Creek one quarter mile east of the highway eight specimens of the black-backed shrew (*Sorex arcticus*) were obtained by members of the ecology class. The animals were found in a sedge and cattail marsh and were the most abundant shrew in this area.

The skins and skulls of these animals have been added to the collection at the Biological Station for future study by classes who will endeavor to add to our knowledge of Itasca's mammals.—William H. Marshall, University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

RICHARDSON'S OWL NEAR CLOQUET—On the afternoon of April 10, 1947, while walking along a woods road near the headquarters of the Cloquet Experimental Forest, Carlton County, with Professors Schantz-Hansen and Allison I had the good fortune to observe closely a Richardson's owl.

As we were passing a dense stand of Norway Pine reproduction ten to twelve feet in height we heard many queer "crackling" calls and discovered three Canada jays darting at a particularly dense tree. Soon the cause of the disturbance was found. The jays were attacking a small owl perched in the dense foliage. We approached to within ten feet of the owl which allowed us a good view. The grey facial discs, lack of horns, round white spots of the forehead and white spotting on the scapulars and tertials were very distinctive of the rare Richardson's owl. As we watched for several minutes the jays continued their attacks, several times actually "pecking" the owl on the back and head. Soon the owl flew some fifty yards to another clump of dense trees with the jays in close pursuit.

The date of observation checks closely with the latest Richardson's owl record in Roberts' *BIRDS OF MINNESOTA* for April 13, 1899, in Kittson County. Although a few robins had arrived at Cloquet that day Hudsonian chickadees were still to be found on the forest in some numbers. There was still a foot or more of snow in the forest and only a few willows along the stream bank had flowered.—William H. Marshall, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

OBSERVATIONS ON MINNESOTA POINT—In company with Howard Cleaves and Ralph Boeder, I visited Minnesota Point on May 11, 1947. This was our first warm day of spring with the temperature in the 70's and high winds.

In the recreation field American pipets were observed feeding. Dozens of sharp-shinned hawks and occasional Cooper's and sparrow hawks flew overhead. White-throated sparrows, song and savannah sparrows, kinglets, palm, myrtle warblers, and American redstarts were in the underbrush. A spotted sandpiper was feeding on floe ice off the shore while snow buntings in large flocks swarmed overhead. It also marked the migration of blue jays in large flocks. Purple martins and tree swallows were numerous, killdeer were heard, and a lone chimney swift was seen. A flock of Bonaparte's gulls and hundreds of ducks were observed in the harbor. In the same afternoon, due to heavy winds in Superior Bay, thousands of ducks assembled in the calm waters of Lake Superior near the bridge—baldpates, redheads, scaups, scoters, and blue-winged teal were noted.

Mr. Cleaves recommended Minnesota Point as an ideal birding area.—J. K. Bronoel, Duluth Bird Club, Duluth, Minnesota.

SHORE BIRDS ALONG THE DULUTH WATERFRONT—Since killdeer, piping plovers, spotted sandpipers, black and common terns, are the only species nesting in the area, the appearance of other species, out of regular migratory season deserves note. Hudsonian curlew were seen on Sandbar Island in Superior Bay, Duluth Harbor on July 7. A single individual was noted in the more or less bare area marking the nesting site of common terns and piping plovers.

The following may be early returning birds from the far North: Pectoral, least, and Baird's sandpipers were observed feeding along the grassy boulevard, Minnesota Point, August 2. On Lake Superior shore, August 5, were ruddy turnstones, flocks of sanderlings, semi-palmated plovers, Baird's and least sandpipers. Young herring gulls were also noted, indicating their migration from the North Shore nesting colonies.—Olga Lakela, University of Minnesota, Duluth, Minnesota.

THE 1947 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION—St. Cloud and St. John's University, about 15 miles from St. Cloud, was the scene of the seventh annual meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union on May 17, 1947. This is the second time since the Union's organization meeting at St. Cloud on May 21, 1938, that this city has been host to the MOU.

The morning program was devoted to observations of birds. For four hours about 100 enthusiastic ornithologists walked along the lake shore and explored the wooded area of St. John's University campus. When their reports were compiled at the luncheon, it was discovered that once more a "century list" (a hundred or more species) had been reached. The warbler wave had apparently passed through this area earlier in the week as only small numbers of each species were seen, although practically all the warblers on the Minnesota check list were reported.

Following the field trip, a delicious luncheon was served in the day students lunch room after which the group went to the auditorium for the business meeting and reading of papers by members.

An address of welcome was given by Father Adelard Theunte, O. S. B., who gave a brief history of St. John's University which was organized in 1857. Their first enrollment included two students who did everything from feeding the cows to feeding the birds. At the present time there are 200 high school and 700 college students enrolled.

The business meeting which followed was presided over by the President, Mrs. George W. Lehrke. The following officers were elected: President, Kenneth D.

Morrison, St. Paul; Vice President, O. A. Finseth, Duluth; Secretary, William H. Longley, St. Paul; Treasurer, Mrs. I. A. Lupient, Minneapolis; and Miss Severena C. Holmberg was re-named Editor of *The Flicker*, a quarterly journal and the official publication of the MOU.

After the adjournment of the business meeting the following papers were read: "Effects of Airplane Spraying of DDT on Birds and Mammals," by Arnold B. Erickson, Minneapolis; "Gulls of Lake Superior," by Miss Evelyn Jones, Duluth; "Holboell's Grebe at Clearwater Lake," by Nester Hiemenz, St. Cloud; "Dr. T. S. Roberts, Minnesota Ornithologist," by Mrs. I. A. Lupient, Minneapolis; "The Work of the Audubon Society in Minnesota," by Kenneth D. Morrison, St. Paul.

The city hall community room was filled to overflowing Saturday evening as the meeting was open to the public. On exhibit was a scrap book and a collection of bird models.

Joane Elliott, Janice Christensen, and Marsha Haug, fourth grade pupils of Miss Cecyl Bemis at the Washington school at St. Cloud and members of the Goldfinch Junior Audubon Club, demonstrated the use of an electrical question map which was invented by Miss Bemis to teach bird study. Minnesota birds numbering 140 are pictured on a map of Minnesota which is wired and when the correct name is touched in the column of bird names on the side of the map a light flashes on.

Milton D. Thompson, Director of the Minneapolis Public Library Museum, gave some "Thoughts on a State Bird." The evening program was rounded off with a showing of motion pictures by Dr. W. J. Breckenridge, Director of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, who is a well known artist and wildlife photographer.

The members of the MOU extend their appreciation to the retiring president, Mrs. George W. Lehrke, and to the following committee on arrangements for an inspiring and successful meeting: George Friedrich, chairman of arrangements; Miss Loretta Rosenberger, lunch; Edward Reiloux, badges and registration; and Miss Monica Misho, transportation.—Severena C. Holmberg, *Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

COLONY OF HOLBOELL'S GREBES IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY—A colony of Holboell's grebes is well established on Lake Calhoun in Kandiyohi county near Spicer, Minnesota. These showy big grebes were seen on June 28, 1947, swimming near the patches of sedge and quill reeds which are abundant in the lake. The fishing guides called them large "mud hens" and said that they had been common for several years on the lake and also were found on many of the other marshy lakes in the area.

There were no young birds in evidence on the lake and no opportunity was had to search for the nests. Judging from their distribution around the lake, there were at least 15 pairs of birds on this one body of water.

Common terns, Franklin's gulls, and Arkansas kingbirds were also common in the area.—Milton D. Thompson, *Minneapolis Public Library Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

UNUSUAL OBSERVATION OF AMERICAN MERGANSER—On July 21 while making observations along Cedar Avenue south of Minneapolis, I saw what was either a juvenile American merganser or a female in a state of molt. It swam in a ditch by the roadside and was not at all shy even upon close approach. I was able to make a very close observation for some length of time as it still remained

there when I left. It did not appear crippled, raised its wings and preened but did not fly. As it is very difficult in the field to distinguish a molting female from a juvenile, I was unable to make positive identification, but its tameness led me to believe it to be a juvenile. However, I have discussed this with Dr. Breckenridge and he thinks there could be a question as to which it was.

On August 11, 1946, I observed an American merganser in a like plumage on a pond near Minneapolis. This area, of course, is far south of where this bird normally breeds although Roberts' BIRDS OF MINNESOTA mentions the fact that the American merganser is believed, in the past, to have nested at Heron Lake and other points as far south as the Iowa line.—Mary Lupient, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

AMERICAN EGRETS IN MINNESOTA.—For the past two summers American egrets have wandered about the marshes in Minnesota after the nesting season and have remained until hunting season opened. In 1945 they were reported August 11, and in 1946 they were seen much earlier, July 15. On August 23, 1947, I found them in the marshes along the Minnesota River. At that time I saw only seven, but that day and for several days prior to it, the weather was extremely hot, thus they may not have been active and possibly there were many more hidden in the vegetation. Those that I saw at 5:00 p.m. were standing motionless in the sizzling heat.—Mrs. Mary Lupient, Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

OBSERVATIONS IN LAKE PEPIN REGION AND SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA—On June 24 I found the yellow-breasted chat between Brownsville and Reno on Highway 26. In this area the bird was very common and I am sure it was nesting from Brownsville 14 miles south to the Iowa border. In this area I also found the black and white warbler, and from the border right up the Mississippi River to Hastings I found the prothonotary warbler. These three species must be extending their range somewhat—the black and white warbler going south and the prothonotary warbler moving up the Mississippi River.—Tom Bergerud, Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

NOTES FROM HOUSTON COUNTY—Since my home is just about a mile from the state line, much of my birding is done in Minnesota. The change in bird population northward is progressing with considerable rapidity in the northeastern corner of Houston county, probably following the finger of Dr. Mirriam's Carolinian zone extending up the river. During the winter this area has as many cardinals as two hundred miles farther south, and the tufted titmouse has become firmly established in increasing numbers.—Charles A. Stewart, New Albin, Iowa.

WATER BIRDLIFE AT CEDAR AVENUE—Those of us who made bird trips to Cedar Avenue (between 58th and about 63rd Streets) enjoyed the abundance and ease of observation of water birdlife found there. The following is a brief record of what could be observed there this spring and early summer: Seven broods of mallards; six broods of blue-winged teal; three broods of ruddy ducks (2, 3, 5 young); many broods of coot; only a few broods of Florida gallinule; black-crowned night heron (four nests seen in a row of young willows far out in the swamp—most birds seen at any one time was 9 or 10); Forster's tern (a colony of some 20 or more birds nesting and several young seen as they were being fed by the parent bird on July 18).

On this day, July 18, on several mudflats formed by the receding water level, I saw a flock of 15 lesser yellow-legs taking to air and settling down, and repeating this maneuver several times before disappearing to the west. On some of the flats a mixed flock of waders was found. This was somewhat of a surprise at this midsummer time. Three least sandpipers (or other "peeps"), a dozen or more killdeer, 6 or 7 lesser yellow-legs, three solitary sandpipers, three pectoral sandpipers, and an unidentified bird the size of a pectoral, uniformly dark on neck and underparts, were observed.

On this date, too, I had the pleasure of watching a mother wood duck with her brood of seven pretty ducklings at the Bass Pond.—A. C. Rosenwinkel, St. Paul Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET NESTS IN ST. PAUL AREA—The persistent and interested bird student can make observations at all seasons without going far afield. On July 5 I was almost startled to hear the familiar "see-see-see" of the golden-crowned kinglet as heard so frequently during the spring days. I had entered a secluded spot along a closed forest road in our St. Paul Municipal Pine Forest at Lake Vadnais. Looking about among the dense upper branches of several Norway spruce, I finally found two female golden-crowned kinglets feeding their several young which were found scattered among the branches. There were six or seven practically grown-up youngsters. While I was craning and straining my aching neck, I suddenly heard the full song of the species under observation. It was repeated a number of times in full and several times only in part. In the same section of the forest I found four adult kinglets on July 12, two of which I identified as males, getting several good looks at their beautiful crown. I watched them while they sang their characteristic song again and again. All the adults showed evidence of the post-nuptial molt.

Evidently this typically coniferous woodland is causing some of the more northern "nesters" to breed here. —A. C. Rosenwinkel, St. Paul Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

NESTING OF BLUEBIRDS—Bluebirds nested in a 12" long wooden box, fastened to the crossbar of the clothes pole. A pair of tree swallows were observed first trying to get inside the 2" pipe opening at the end, so we hurriedly put up this wooden box. They were chased out a few days later by the bluebirds, who raised two broods in this nest. The swallows came on April 25, and it was April 30 before the bluebirds had the upper hand.

The bluebirds laid two eggs that we could see. A cowbird got in the box sometime and laid an egg, but about a week later we saw the cowbird egg and one of the bluebird eggs pushed out toward the front of the box and they never hatched.

English sparrows were waiting for the nest before the little one left. We were gone on vacation that week so didn't see what happened, but when we came back, the bluebirds were busy with the second nesting. The first bluebird young was on the perch in front of the nest on June 10 and left the next day, June 11.

The young bluebird also helped watch the nest and feed the second hatching. There was also another young bluebird, we have wondered where it came from; it helped also. This time there were four eggs laid. One young died when a couple of days old, another was found on the ground when about a week old. The two young left the nest on July 30.—Mrs. Charles H. Snyder, Minneapolis Bird Club, Hopkins, Minnesota.

OBSERVATIONS NEAR GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA—On June 21-28, we saw a turkey vulture flying over Mink Lake, a scarlet tanager in the woods by this same lake, and an eastern phoebe had a nest over the window of our cabin with five young birds in it. For two nights in succession we saw an osprey about 5:30 p.m., coming for fish. It flew off over the woods in the same direction on June 25 and 26. The first night Major Snyder heard the splash on the other side of the lake, it got its fish and flew away. The second evening we saw it just as it was leaving the lake. It already had a fish in its claws.—Mrs. Charles H. Snyder, Minneapolis Bird Club, Hopkins, Minnesota.

BALD EAGLES IN WISCONSIN—Since December 1940, Mr. Owen and I have been quite interested in reports of the bald eagle in both Wisconsin and Minnesota, so we were naturally interested in the story of the bald eagle in the June, 1947, issue of *The Flicker*.

When I saw my first eagle flying low over our yard in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, I was glad that my husband was with me or I am afraid my story might have been discredited. In my excitement, instead of remaining in the yard to see where this mature eagle might be going I hastened into the house to get Dr. Roberts' *BIRDS OF MINNESOTA* to see what his history of the bird in these parts might be.

Three days later I again saw one coming from the same direction with the same slowness of speed and the same low flight. I watched its course carefully and went to the phone and called Mr. Barnard, the Superintendent of the Inter State Park at St. Croix Falls to have him verify our identification if possible. He stated that two or three eagles were spending the winter in the park eating the fish which they found on the ice at the edge of the open water, and that though they spent most of their time on the Wisconsin side of the river they were more easily seen from the Lookout on the Taylor's Falls side.

From early December 1940 through March 1941 not only did the mature eagle frequently fly over our yard, but also a young one whose under wing markings were easily discerned with our field glasses.

I also have some records of the bald eagle in our St. Croix Valley at Hudson, where we now reside. In February and March 1946, several were seen. This year two adults were seen on March 17, 23, and 26. On March 17, I watched one on the broken ice between the railroad bridge and the highway toll bridge for over an hour, apparently eating fish. Seven crows made a terrible fuss and would go to each spot where it had been eating after it had moved on to another feeding place. The crows appeared like small blackbirds beside the eagle.

As I started home I discovered that it had a companion soaring above that was more interested in aerial stunts than in eating. On Sunday, March 23, two were seen above Lakeland about noon, each vying with the other in its soaring until disturbed by an airplane, when they both flew overland toward Stillwater. On the 26th there were two again on the river; the last record I have of them. The white head and tail was visible in all of these.—Mrs. Stella P. Owen, Hudson, Wisconsin.

ROADSIDE BIRDING—This spring my husband has had to be at work at 6 a.m. I drive him down town and on the way home stop on Stillwater Avenue where it crosses Beaver Lake's outlet on St. Paul's eastern boundary. The outlet flows from a marshy bay into a pond on the other side of the road. I park there for a few minutes each morning and have seen many of the commoner water birds—

even a small flock of cormorants within 50 feet of the road. A pair of shovellers and a pair of wood ducks were there a few mornings. Since there are some large dead willows nearby, I hoped the wood ducks would nest there, but I haven't seen them now for a week.

The bittern has displayed his lovely white nuptial plumage and I watched him give his pumping noise. At first I thought he had eaten something too big for him to swallow and he was trying to disgorge it. When the noise came I realized he was singing to his lady who kept at least 20 feet ahead of him as they circled the bay.

This morning (May 16) I thought was going to be a dull morning for there seemed to be little there except blackbirds and terns—not even the blue-winged teal which are usually around. I was just ready to drive on when a shore bird stopped to preen. He flew but just then I noticed two soras feeding at the edge of the reeds. A passing car made them disappear in the weeds. On the other side of the road where the outlet flows into the pond, I saw a killdeer and found the shore bird had stopped there. Then as I watched, a green heron moved and in a moment I discovered another standing motionless. They could easily be passed over as hummocks of mud and grass. A little later a bittern stretched his head up so it looked like a clump of dry weeds. It disappeared as a third green heron flew over and landed near it. In a short while the green herons flew over to the lake and there were four of them. The blue-winged teal showed up on the edge of the pond too. So what started out dull ended up by being a very interesting twenty minutes.

The black crowned night herons are at this same place frequently and in a marshy bay on the east side of the lake I saw six one morning besides two blue herons. (I never did identify the shore bird.)—Mrs. Walter C. Olin, St. Paul, Minnesota.

NESTING OBSERVATIONS—I was walking along the shore of one of the little bays of White Fish Lake just about warbler time. It seemed as though a variety of them had clustered around one little area of evergreens, birches, and oaks. The cerulean warbler waved its bluish striped wings at us; the pine warbler, the myrtle, the redstart, the magnolia warbler, the chipping sparrow, song sparrow, and others took a good look at us and dared us to come nearer. We did and they gave us a dare from a different twig. After watching them for a while we went on to the deeper part of the woods. The chickadee duffed his black cap as it flitted from twig to twig and finally landed on an old stump. It peered about and disappeared into a hole in the side of it. A minute later, out it came and was off. It didn't take long before it was back and into the hole in the old stump. We concluded that Mr. and Mrs. black-capped chickadee were using a woodpecker's hole for their nest. Two weeks later when we returned the chickadees were nowhere to be found. They probably thought the nest would be safer higher up.

We have in our back yard a tree that belongs solely to the woodpeckers or did until recently. The tree has more holes than branches and no leaves at all. We have left it there to attract the flicker, downy, hairy, and pileated woodpeckers; even the Arctic three-toed sounded taps on it last spring. There is a bird house on top of where the main stem was cut off. Not many birds have occupied it. There were too many arguments with other birds. Last summer the wren commanded the doorway and even told the English sparrow to be on its way. This year the wren went back to its own bird house. Now the house is for rent to any

tenant. The bluebird, a rather meek little bird, didn't stop to argue. He and his mate happily built their nest in the most attractive woodpecker hole below. They were undisturbed and settled down in their well selected home. We were gone for four days. When we returned the bluebirds were gone and a starling was calmly setting about building his nest in the same woodpecker hole. Later we saw the pair of woodpeckers around the yard, but we did not find their nest. For some reason or other the starling did not finish his nest and disappeared from the yard. Now the tree belongs to the woodpeckers again.

The flickers have had a tree of their own in our yard, a rather large boxelder. There were several holes in it, but they chose the largest and most convenient one for their nest. In due time we heard the "see sawing" sound of their little brood. One day in late June, we had a rain and wind storm which broke off the large branches and exposed the flicker home. We saw the young flickers, each peering from his own private compartment, one on either side of the main tunnel in the tree and the other above in one of the irregularities formed by another tunnel. It was interesting to watch them take their turn in getting food from the mother. They opened their big beaks far enough for the mother to put hers in and deposit nourishment.—Monica Misho, St. Cloud Bird Club, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

BOOK REVIEW

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS by Roger Tory Peterson. Second Revised and enlarged Edition Sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1947. 4½ x 7½ inches, 290 pages, 1 map, 1000 illustrations, 500 in full color. \$3.50.

Roger Tory Peterson's new guide (third edition) giving field marks of all species found east of the Rockies is not just a revision; it has been completely rewritten and reorganized. It retains the famous Peterson system of distinctive field markings and color patterns for easy identification when the bird is seen at a distance.

This book contains all the birds—land birds, water birds, birds of prey, and game birds—that can be seen in eastern and central America from the Atlantic to the 100th meridian in the Great Plains.

All the illustrations are new—1,000 of them, 500 in full color; black and white is used whenever it is more of an aid in identification than color.

To facilitate identification and make for quick reference, the author has placed opposite the illustrations a key page giving some distinctive field marks for each species and also the page in the text to which to turn for detailed information.

Some of the new additions to the guide are Plates of the bills of terns; ducks overhead; the confusing fall warblers; roadside, shore, and flight silhouettes. An important feature and perhaps the greatest addition is the inclusion of sections on *Similar species*. In order not to confuse beginners *Accidentals* (birds recorded less than 20 times in eastern North America) and *Subspecies* are put into appendixes at the back of the book. This arrangement will also make revision of the book more facile.

It is the most practical and inclusive field guide under one cover ever published.—Severena C. Holmberg, Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

CALL NOTES

A Tribute to Constance Stelzig. The St. Cloud Bird Club joins the T. S. Roberts Ornithological Club in paying tribute to Constance Stelzig, 23 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Stelzig, who was accidentally killed on August 6, 1947.

"Connie," as she was known to her friends, was interested in nature study from childhood. As she went on through college, she made ornithology her specialty. Her interest and ability to identify birds made her an able assistant to George W. Friedrich in his field and laboratory work.

After graduation from the St. Cloud State Teachers College in June, she became an instructor of nature study in the summer recreational program in St. Cloud. She was looked up to by old and young alike as an authority on birds and other forms of nature study. She gave great promise in the biological field of study. She will be missed in our bird clubs, but to those who have known her she has given a broader and a happier understanding of "flowers and trees, Humming-birds and honey-bees." (Written by Monica Misho, St. Cloud Bird Club.)

* * *

Kenneth Morrison has resigned his position as editor of *The Conservation Volunteer*, the official organ of the State Conservation Department, to work with the National Audubon Society. He is the Minnesota Representative of the National Audubon Society with headquarters at 3544 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis 8, Minnesota. (See article on page 60 of this issue on "Itasca Tours Inaugurate Audubon Program.")

September, 1947

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its annual meeting on September 8 to 12, 1947, in Toronto, Canada. Some of the Minnesota ornithologists who will attend this meeting are Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Breckenridge, Byron Harrell, and Dr. D. W. Warner. Dr. Warner will read a paper on "Rare Birds of New Caledonia and the Factors Influencing Their Extinction."

* * *

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union members are strongly urged to join the American Ornithologists' Union drive in one of the greatest crises in human history and send packages of used clothing and CARE food packages to needy European ornithologists.

Conditions in Europe as described in letters received by the AOU committee are appalling now and will be worse by winter. Many people still have only the clothing in which they escaped from their bombed homes during the war. Old clothing, even with patches, is actually a prized gift. A new pair of shoes in Hungary, for instance, costs one month's salary, and a new suit the salary for three months. Therefore they can buy nothing and need everything: suits, dresses, coats, underwear, stockings, and shoes. Will you not help to alleviate this suffering by writing to Mrs. F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr., Pinckney, Michigan, stating what articles you can send and giving sizes. She will furnish you with a name and address of an ornithologist's family that can use your sizes, and provide you with mailing instructions. The most urgent needs of about 1,000 ornithologists and their families are now known.

Those who have no used clothing to send may help provide shoes, so that

children can go to school, by sending their check to Mrs. Hamerstrom, Jr., Pinckney, Michigan. The donor will receive a card telling him to whom the shoes have gone (as long as the supply lasts). She reserves the right to include other items which the family especially needs at no extra cost to you. For \$1.00 Mrs. Hamerstrom will send a pair of shoes to an European ornithologist in your name, for \$2.50 three pairs, for \$4.00 five pairs. When placing orders please mention your ornithological specialty briefly and she will try and send to someone with similar interests.

Send food through CARE to insure delivery. With the help of our State Department 40,000 calories of critically needed fats, meat, dried fruits, etc., are now being delivered duty free and under police protection by CARE. The package will be sent in your name. The cost of one CARE package is \$10.00. Checks for CARE, however, should be sent to Mrs. John T. Emlen, Jr., 2621 Van Hise Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

In addition to the CARE packages it is now possible to send food packages for \$3.50 and \$5.00. These checks should also be made out to Mrs. John T. Emlen, Jr. These packages are not as good a buy as CARE, but they may be sent to Hungary and the Russian zone, where CARE does not operate.

Weight regulations on clothing parcels are 22 pounds limit for most countries. Customs slips and directions can be had at any post office. All packages should be labeled "gift parcel." Scotch tape pasted over the address helps to keep it legible. Christmas packages should be mailed now. There are over 200 ornithologists' children to be taken care of. Contributions in any amount are welcome.

Letters acknowledging packages already received express gratitude for the hope and strength this help has given them. American ornithologists must not let their European colleagues down.

* * *

Dwain W. Warner, who has been curator of the bird collections in the Cornell University laboratory, has recently joined the staff at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. He has been named Curator of birds at the Museum and Assistant Professor of zoology.

Dr. Warner, who is a native of Northfield, Minnesota, took his undergraduate work at Carleton College where he made many contacts with Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, Jr. He received his Ph. D. degree from Cornell University this summer. He has done considerable work with Arthur A. Allen of Cornell and has also made many contacts with George M. Sutton.

While serving in the armed forces during World War II, Dr. Warner spent many months in the South Pacific. While stationed there, he studied and collected many of the birds of New Caledonia.

The Museum staff is looking forward to some fine programs this winter.

* * *

At the 1947 session of the Minnesota Legislature the Duluth State Teachers College was made a branch of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Olga Lakela, who is a regular contributor to *The Flicker*, is on the staff of the Duluth branch of the University of Minnesota.

November 27-29 is the date set for the annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at Columbus, Ohio.

—S. C. H.

TO MEMBERS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The University of Minnesota Press has published a number of books of interest to naturalists, and an arrangement has been made whereby these books are available to MOU members. The trade discount goes to the Union treasury for aid in publishing *The Flicker*. A ten per cent discount will be allowed to members.

Orders and remittances should be sent to Mrs. I. A. Lupient, Treasurer, Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, 212 Bedford Street S. E., Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.

Birds of Minnesota, Roberts (2 Vols., De Luxe Edition)	\$25.00
A Manual for Identification of Minnesota Birds, Roberts	2.00
Canoe Country, Jaques	2.00
Snowshoe Country, Jaques	3.00
Reptiles and Amphibians of Minnesota, Breckenridge	2.50
A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology, Pettingill	3.50
Birds in the Garden, Mc Kenny	5.00
Northern Fishes, Eddy and Surber	4.00



AMERICA'S CONSERVATION PLEDGE

"I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife."

(Note—The above pledge was selected as the winner in a contest sponsored by Outdoor Life Magazine.)

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Affiliated Societies

CLOQUET BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Louise Stender; Vice President, Miss Doris Anderson; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Helen Berg; Editor, Miss Adeline Peterson.

Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Cloquet High School at 7:30 p.m.

DULUTH BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Joel K. Bronoel; Vice President, Miss Frances Riddle; Secretary, Miss Helen C. Smith; Treasurer, Miss Harriet Lockhart.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month of the school year at 7:30 p.m. at the State Teachers College.

LAKEVIEW BRANCH OF THE DULUTH BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Freida Beier; Vice President, Mrs. John Thomas; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Wernowsky.

Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the homes of the members.

MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers: President, Mrs. G. R. Magney; Vice President, Mrs. Harry W. Rice; Treasurer, Mrs. Edgar W. Bedford; Recording Secretary, Miss A. Glasoe; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Sowden; Field Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Thompson; Auditor, Mrs. Gaylord Davidson.

Meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Walker Branch Library. Field trips during April and May on Tuesdays and Fridays.

MINNEAPOLIS BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Florence Nelson; Vice President, George Rickert; Secretary, Mrs. Charles Snyder; Treasurer, Mrs. Edith Kees.

Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Public Library Museum.

MINNESOTA BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Lewis L. Barrett; Vice President, H. J. Paul; Secretary, Mrs. I. A. Lupinet; Treasurer, Harvey Gunderson.

Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month, except in June, July, August, and September, at 8:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History.

ST. CLOUD BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Monica Misho; Vice President, Mrs. Charles Beacom; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Loretta Rosenberger.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from October through March in the committee room of the public library at 8:00 p.m.

T. S. ROBERTS ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Officers: President, Edward Reioux; Vice President, Robert Fox; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Mavis Scott; Advisor, G. W. Friedrich.

Meetings are held bi-monthly February through May at the St. Cloud Teachers College.

ST. PAUL BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Kenneth Morrison; Vice President, Leonard Lustig; Treasurer, R. A. Kortmann; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Irene Knapton; Recording Secretary, Miss Ruth Arnquist; Directors at Large, Mrs. R. M. Elliott and Miss Genevieve Clark.

Meetings are held at the St. Paul public library at 7:45 p.m., the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May.

THE FLICKER

VOLUME 19

December, 1947

NUMBER 4



Published Quarterly by
THE
MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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The Flicker

Organ of the *MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION*

Published Quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

THE FLICKER is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Dues for all members, \$1.00 per annum, should be paid in advance to the treasurer.

All articles and communications for publications and exchanges should be addressed to the editor.

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THE FLICKER

VOLUME 19

December, 1947

NUMBER 4

Changes in Minnesota Bird Life

by

William H. Longley

(The following article is a resume of a discussion held at a meeting of the Minnesota Bird Club on November 5, 1947. Participants in the discussion were Lewis Barrett, Mrs. I. A. Lupient, Byron Harrell, and William Longley. Dr. W. J. Breckenridge was the moderator.)

Like all things in nature, birds are dynamic. Not only do the numbers of birds change from season to season and year to year, but their distributions gradually shift. A few examples illustrate some of these changes as they have occurred in the past few years in Minnesota.

The red-breasted merganser, though breeding as far south as Lake Mille Lacs, was considered rare even on the North Shore of Lake Superior 20 years ago. In recent years numerous records have come in for this bird nesting along the North Shore.

The red-shouldered hawk was never seen by Dr. Roberts until the 1930's, and the first nest was found in 1934. This is one of the species that has moved in from the southeast. The red-shoulder pushed up the St. Croix River and the Mississippi River until it is now regularly found at St. Cloud and above Taylors Falls, and it is found breeding away from the river bottoms.

The Forster's tern was until recently considered a rare migrant in the vicinity of the Twin Cities. Records of this tern's nesting here are turning up

more and more frequently in recent years.

The western kingbird, along with the Brewer's blackbird, has moved eastward, but this trend has been in evidence for 60 years at least according to BIRDS OF MINNESOTA. The first nest of the western kingbird in the Twin Cities area was found in 1930; others have since been found, and the population is apparently filling in the gaps between the center of abundance in the west and the limit of the range here in the east.

The cardinal is another bird the changing status of which has been in evidence for a long time. Eventually we may expect to find it nesting throughout the entire state.

Along with these four species there may be mentioned also the blue-gray gnatcatcher, cerulean warbler, prothonotary warbler, the wood thrush, and perhaps the Lincoln's sparrow. One fact stands out when we consider the birds that have moved up from the southeastern part of the state: These species—the red-shouldered hawk, the red-bellied woodpecker, the prothonotary warbler, and the cardinal—have made a consistent and steady movement up the river valleys and subsequently spread out to the higher ground, then finally are not at all restricted with the rivers. If the tufted titmouse be included in this group, though it hasn't increased very greatly, it is noted that

four of the five species are permanent residents. Then because we don't know the significance of these trends, our curiosity is aroused.

What are the reasons behind the changes in population? One factor seems to be an overall change in climate, for certain European studies have indicated a warmer average temperature in the North. Another factor, more easily proven, is the change of habitats. Still another is competition, between members of the same species as well as among different species. And not to be overlooked is the human factor, an increase of observers, resulting in an increase of records.

There is some reason to believe that the increased number of nesting records of the red-breasted merganser can be attributed to more observing along the North Shore. The Lincoln's sparrow has long been suspected of nesting in the northern part of the state, and the few nests that recently were reported probably are a result of more bird watchers. In the case of the Forster's tern it may have been just closer observing, for most of the "white terns" in the Twin Cities area were thought to be common terns just passing through. More records of the Forster's tern nesting, however, may indicate an increase or an eastward extension of their breeding range.

Changes in habitat have been of much importance regarding both the increases that we are considering here and the decreases that have been so evident. The prairie chicken in Minnesota seems to have been affected in both ways. First, it moved into Minnesota in the middle 1800's from the south and east; prospered with the early farming practices; and then perhaps because of changing agricultural practices the prairie chicken population waned and fell off sharply.

Replacement of the coniferous forest after lumbering and fire with a sec-

ond growth of birch and poplar was, of course, a great influence. The white-tailed deer followed closely the recession of the evergreens. It is possible that the wood thrush moved northward in response to this change. The Big Woods of east-central Minnesota rapidly disappeared with the advent of farming, and with it went several species from that area. Other birds, those of the clearings and brushland, could move in then, and they did. No doubt such birds as meadowlarks, Brewer's blackbirds, and the western kingbird could now find conditions to their liking there. There is a possibility that the northward movement of the cerulean warbler could be caused by the shortage of heavy hardwood forests in their former range and the availability of such forest farther north.

Certainly the cardinal made good use of the exposed habitat that was once the Big Woods. To mention all the changes that have occurred because of agriculture taking over a virgin territory would require too much space here. Suffice it to say that the planting of windbreaks about farm buildings on the plains, the plowing of the tall-grass prairie, the drainage of marshes, all have had great and permanent effect on the distribution of birds. Habitat changes have been of much importance. But seemingly to modify the effect of habitat change is a peculiarity of bird behavior that influences birds to act differently at the limits of their ranges than they act at the center of their abundance.

Maurice Brooks (Wilson Bulletin, Volume 54, Number 1) points out some examples of birds using far different types of nesting cover at the extremity of their ranges. The Swainson's warbler in one instance nests in dense rhododendron thickets in one area far removed from the main nesting population. The black-throated green warbler in the southern portion of its range

nests where there are no conifers at all. Thus it may be expected that certain birds may change their habitat requirements for nesting, and they can thereby soften the effect of changing habitat. A further study and comparison of these behavior differences at the limits and at the centers of the ranges of numerous Minnesota birds may prove most interesting.

In BIRDS OF MINNESOTA (Volume 1, Page 71), Dr. Roberts has mentioned many of the recent changes in Minnesota bird life. Of particular interest is his story of the lark bunting. This bird became very common just before 1900 on the prairies of the southwestern part of the state; then it disappeared. Only a few records have since been accrued.

The history of the McCown's longspur was about the same as that of the lark bunting, while two other species which appeared in the western part of the state some 60 years ago are still common. They are the Sprague's pipit and the Baird's sparrow.

Dr. A. A. Allen mentions several changes from 1934 to 1944 in the bird life of Churchill, Manitoba (Auk, Volume 62, Page 129). He also mentions several changes in central New York and southern Canada, including some of the species (cardinal, tufted titmouse) which have been mentioned above.

Thus it appears that widespread changes are taking place, and that Minnesota is only one area in which they are occurring.—St. Paul Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.



The deadline for the March, 1948, issue of THE FLICKER is February 10, 1948.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

All clubs or individuals who cooperate in taking the Christmas Bird Count should mail their notes to the editor as soon after the count as possible so the data can be compiled for publication in the March issue of THE FLICKER. The dates for the Christmas Count are December 20 through 28. The regulations for this count may be found in the November-December 1945, AUDUBON MAGAZINE or the July 1947, issue of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES.

Minnesota Nesting Records, 1947

by

Amy Chambers

Many persons were very helpful in making their records as they followed the editor's suggestions and put their records on individual cards and in species order, which greatly aided in the recording of the data.

Among the persons contributing were: Duluth: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roberts and son, Henry; Olga Lakela and her class from the University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch; Rose Schimmick; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Boeder; Mr. and Mrs. Joel Broncoel; Mrs. Richard Northup; Mary I. Elwell; Byron Bray; Hulda Adams; Warren Hamerston; Harry Kahn. St. Paul: Mr. and Mrs. Tilford Moore, Alma Chesley, Brother Pius, Thomas Meyer, Robert Keenan, and William Longley. St. Cloud: Mrs. George Lehrke. Lac Qui Parle County: Franklin Willis. Minneapolis: W. J. Breckenridge, Severena C. Holmberg, Evelyn Behrens, Lewis Barrett, Milton D. Thompson, John Pratt, Lulu May Aler, Mrs. Charles H. Snyder, and John Fatcher. Mankato: Don L. Jacobs.

Some nests recorded last year were not reported this year. Two unusual ones were: Carolina wren seen by Milton D. Thompson in Houston County in August, and the blue-gray gnat-catcher seen by The Minneapolis Bird Club on its annual trip to Old Frontenac. This trip was unusual because it "hit" the warbler wave, when one only needed to sit on the shore of Lake Pepin to see all the warblers.

LOON. 1 young, Aug. 12, Cook Co., Roberts family; 2 young, July 28, Clearwater Co., Barrett; June 27, 2 small young (week old), Itasca State Park, Longley.

HOLBOELL'S GREBE. 5 eggs, July 7, Becker Co., Barrett.

EARED GREBE. 3 nests with 8 eggs, June 11, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

PIED-BILLED GREBE. 3 nests with 14 eggs, May 25; 2 nests with 11 eggs, May 29; 1 nest with 6 eggs, June 6, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 2 nests with 14 eggs, Richfield, Jacobs; 2 nests with 9 eggs, June 30, McLeod Co., Barrett.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. 25 to 30 nests with young, June 23, Lake Traverse, Pratt.

GREEN HERON. Adult flushed from nest 5/23-31; June 3, 3 eggs hatched; June 17, 2 young; June 26 nest deserted, Hennepin Co. Aler; 2 nests with young, July 9, Hennepin Co., Jacobs.

AMERICAN BITTERN. 1 nest with 4 eggs, June 6; 1 nest with 4 eggs, June 11; 4 nests with 11 eggs and 2 young, June 29, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 1 young, July 27, St. Louis Co., Roberts family.

MALLARD. 8 young, June 1, Douglas Co., Barrett; 2 nests with 17 eggs, June 23, Hennepin Co., Jacobs; 3 broods of young (22), June 23, Hennepin Co., Jacobs; 10 young, July 5, Hennepin Co., Barrett; 4 broods, (31 in all) July 6, Hennepin Co., Jacobs; 8 young, July 26, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; June 27, 4 young (10-days old), Itasca Park, Longley.

AMERICAN PINTAIL. 9 eggs, May 31, Heron Lake, Jacobs; 10 eggs, May 20; 7 eggs, June 9; 3 young, July 20, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. 1 egg, May 7, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 10 eggs, June 20, Wright Co., Barrett; 11 eggs, June 23; 3 broods, 19 young, June 23; 2 broods, 16 young, July 6, Hennepin

Co., Jacobs; 14 eggs, July 2, Kandiyohi Co., Barrett; 19 eggs, July 3, Wright Co., Barrett; Broods with 10, 9, and 8 young, July 15, Pope Co., Barrett; 2 broods, 15 eggs, July 23; 6 young, Aug. 10, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

SHOVELER. 6 eggs, June 25, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

WOOD DUCK. Nesting, May 27, Mankato, Jacobs; 10 young, June 20, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 3 broods, 9, 7, and 6, July 15, Hennepin Co., Barrett; 19 eggs, hatched, May 29 (May 18, last year); May 27, nest with 26 eggs, destroyed by predators at time of hatching; later nest with 2 eggs, shells of 10 more found Hennepin Co., Breckenridge; June 30, nest with 7 small young; July 14, 4 young (2 weeks old) Itasca Park, Longley.

REDHEAD. 10 eggs, June 5; 5 eggs, June 11; 2 nests with 20 eggs, June 25; 9 eggs, June 29, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

RING-NECKED DUCK. 8 young, July 30, Wadena Co., Barrett.

RUDDY DUCK. 200 birds nesting, June 11; 9 eggs, July 10, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; nesting, July 6, Hennepin Co., Jacobs.

HOODED MERGANSER. July 3, five small young, Itasca Park, Longley.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. 1 nest with 7 eggs; 1 nest with 8 eggs; 1 nest with 9 eggs, June 22, Lake Co., Roberts family.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. 1 young, June 26; 2 young, July 4; young out of nest, July 14, Hennepin Co., Aler; 2 eggs, May 12, Mankato, Jacobs.

BALD EAGLE. July 1, 3 young, Itasca Park, Longley.

SPARROW HAWK. 4 eggs, June 6, Lac Qui Parle, Willis.

RUFFED GROUSE. 10 eggs, June 7, Isanti Co., Barrett; 10 young, July 21, St. Louis Co., Lakela.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT. 8 eggs, May 16; 2 broods, July 20; 12 young, Aug. 2, Lac Qui Parle Co. Will-

is; 11 young, May 20, Blue Earth Co., Jacobs; 16 eggs, May 24, Kandiyohi Co., Barrett; 14 eggs, May 24, Chippewa Co., Barrett; 15 eggs, May 24, Chippewa Co., Barrett; 8 young, June 26, Hennepin Co., Jacobs.

VIRGINIA RAIL. Broken eggs in nest, May 30, Heron Lake, Jacobs; 6 young, June 23, Hennepin Co., Jacobs; 2 eggs and young, June 29; 9 eggs, July 5, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

SORA. 13 eggs, June 10; 2 nests with 3 eggs, July 1, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

FLORIDA GALLINULE. 6 eggs, June 1, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 3 eggs, June 25; 8 eggs, June 29; 2 broods, June 29, Hennepin Co., Jacobs; 5 young July 15, Pope Co., Barrett.

COOT. 2 nests with 21 eggs, May 25, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 7 nests with 51 eggs, May 30, Heron Lake, Jacobs; 1 nest, 18 eggs, June 5, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 5 nests, 42 eggs, Hennepin Co., Jacobs; 7 nests with 49 eggs, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 3 broods with 13 young, June 18, Lac Qui Parle Co., Barrett; 4 nests, 28 eggs, June 22, Hennepin Co., Jacobs.

PIPING PLOVER. 2 nests with 3 eggs, June 26; 1 nest, 2 eggs, June 26; 2 nests, 7 eggs, July 7, Duluth, Lakela.

KILLDEER. 4 eggs, May 15; 3 eggs, May 29, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 3 young, June 7, Isanti Co., Barrett; 3 eggs, June 12, 1 egg punctured, 2 eggs missing, June 12, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 3 eggs, June 21, Hennepin Co., Fitcher; 2 young, June 26, Duluth, Lakela; 4 half-grown young, June 29, Duluth, Lakela; 1 egg, July 1, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 3 young, July 28, Duluth, Shimmick.

UPLAND PLOVER. 4 eggs, May 23, Kandiyohi Co., Barrett.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. 4 eggs, June 23, Duluth, Lakela; 2 young, July 5, Duluth, Lakela; young, July 27, Mankato, Jacobs.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE. 4 eggs,

May 25, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 3 eggs, May 29, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

HERRING GULL. 93 nests, 73 young, 9 dead, 16 eggs, June 4, Knife Island, Lake Superior, Boeder and Broenel; 135 nests, 40 young, 4 dead, 53 eggs, June 22, Beaver Island, Lake Superior, Northup, Roberts, Elwell, and Lakela; 21 nests, 11 young, 1 dead, 17 eggs, June 22, Mattesons' Island, Lake Superior, Northup, Roberts, Elwell, and Lakela.

FRANKLIN'S GULL. 52 nests, 140 eggs, thought many other nests, too, Heron Lake, Jacobs.

FORSTER'S TERN. 2 nests, 6 eggs, May 30, Heron Lake, Jacobs; 11 nests, many young, July 6, Hennepin Co., Jacobs.

COMMON TERN. 6 nests, 18 eggs, 2 nests, 4 eggs; 3 young, June 26, Harbor Island, Lake Superior, Lakela. 13 nests, 32 eggs, 3 young, July 7, Duluth Lakela.

BLACK TERN. 25 to 30 nests, one to 3 eggs in each, June 11, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 8 nests, 18 eggs, June 7; 19 nests, 43 eggs, and young, June 26; 4 nests, 10 eggs and young, July 26, Hennepin Co., Jacobs.

MOURNING DOVE. 2 eggs, April 17, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 1 egg, April 19; 2 nests, 4 eggs, April 27; 2 eggs, April 29; 2 eggs and young, May 1; 6 nests, 8 eggs, June 5, Mankato, Jacobs; young, May 30, St. Cloud, Lehrke; 2 eggs on ground, May 29, Lac Qui Parle, Willis; 2 eggs, Aug. 18, Polk Co., Barrett.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. 2 eggs, July 10, Lac Qui Parle, Willis.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. 1 egg and 1 young, July 5, Lac Qui Parle, Willis.

NIGHTHAWK. 1 egg and 1 young, July 12, Mankato, Jacobs; 1 young, Aug. 3, Lake Co., Lakela.

FLICKER. 13 eggs, May 13; 10 eggs, May 28; 10 young, June 8, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; Feeding young, June

23, Ottertail Co., Pratt; young June 28, Hennepin Co., Jacobs; young, July 11, Lake Worthington, Jacobs; 3 young, July 25, Duluth, Lakela.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. 2 nests, June 8, Lac Qui Parle, Willis; young, June 2, Mankato, Jacobs; young, July 11, Le Sueur Co., Jacobs.

KINGBIRD. Building, April 30, Mankato, Jacobs; Building, May 20, young on ground, July 22, Hennepin Co., Snyder; 4 eggs, June 20, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 1 egg, June 23, Lake Traverse, Pratt; 5 young, August 4, Duluth, Lakela.

WESTERN KINGBIRD. Nest, July 6, Swift Co., Willis; nest with 1 egg, July 4, Anoka Co., Breckenridge.

ALDER FLYCATCHER. 4 eggs, June 15; 2 nests, 8 eggs, June 25; 4 eggs, July 5; young out, July 20, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

LEAST FLYCATCHER. June 16, incubating; Itasca Park, Longley.

PHOEBE. Building, April 27; 1 egg and 3 cowbird eggs, May 7, Mankato, Jacobs; 2 eggs and 1 cowbird egg, May 9, Mankato, Jacobs; 2 nests, May 19, Mankato, Jacobs; 4 eggs (1 cowbird's egg removed) May 10; 2 eggs (1 cowbird's egg removed) May 17; 2 eggs, May 24; young flying, June 10; 5 eggs (same nest), June 18, Hennepin Co., Pratt; young, June 2, Hennepin Co., Aler; 4 eggs, June 9, Duluth, Boeder; 5 young, June 21, Hennepin Co., Snyder; nest, July 1, Crow Wing Co., Holmberg; 3 young, July 11, Lake Co., Pratt; nest June 15, 3 young; June 27, 4 eggs; July 2, second use of above nest, 4 eggs; July 5, young, Itasca Park, Longley.

WOOD PEEWEE. Nest with young, Aug. 2, Houston Co., Thompson.

HORNED LARK. 3 eggs and 1 young, May 30; 4 eggs, June 23, Lac Qui Parle, Willis.

TREE SWALLOW. Building, April 26; May 3 first mating; May 22, male died, 1 egg; May 26, new male, mating;

June 6-9, 5 eggs; June 17, male English sparrow in box; June 18, nest empty; July 8, 4 eggs and 2 young; July 11, 2 eggs and 4 young; July 13, 5 eggs; July 21, 4 young; July 27, 3 young flew, Duluth, Moore; building, June 2, July 16 deserted, Hennepin Co., Aler; 8 young, July 7, Duluth, Bray; 5 young, July 22, Duluth, Roberts.

BANK SWALLOW. 50 pairs, 3 to 5 eggs in each nest, June 17, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

BARN SWALLOW. 6 nests, 16 eggs, June 12, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 4 nests, 17 eggs, June 16, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 3 young, 1 egg, June 18, Chipewewa, Barrett; young, June 20, Duluth, Moore; 2 young, Aug. 4, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 3 young, Aug. 19, Clearwater Co., Barrett; 3 young, Aug. 25, Beltrami Co., Barrett; 12 young on wing, fed by adults, St. Louis Co., Lakela, Aug. 29.

CLIFF SWALLOW. 56 nests, June 30, left nest July 28, St. Louis Co., Lakela; 12 nests, July 5, St. Louis Co., Lakela; 3 young and several other nests, Aug. 2, Houston Co., Thompson.

BLUE JAY. 5 eggs, May 31, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 4 young, July 26, Duluth, Lakela; feeding 2 well-grown young, July 26, Duluth, Moore.

CROW. 2 eggs, April 27; 3 eggs, April 29; 3 eggs, May 4, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. Found nest, May 8, 5 eggs, May 10, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

CAROLINA WREN. 4 young, Aug. 2, Houston Co., Thompson.

HOUSE WREN. 8 young, June 8, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; June 16 building, 17th, 3 eggs, 20th, 7 eggs, 22nd all eggs missing, July 23, 3 dead, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 3 young, July 15; 4 young, July 21; 9 young, July 25, St. Louis Co., Lakela.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. 6 nests 4 with young and 2 others with 11 eggs, June 29, Lac Qui Parle, Willis.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. No date given, many present in spring-fed meadow, nesting, but none found, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

CATBIRD. Building, May 19; 1 egg, May 24; nest destroyed, June 10, Hennepin Co., Pratt. 4 eggs, June 14, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis. 5 young, June 16; out of nest, June 23, Minneapolis, Behrens; June 23, four eggs, (July 3, 1 young; July 7, empty), Itasca Park, Longley.

BROWN THRASHER. Building, May 18, Hennepin Co., Barrett; 4 eggs, May 24; 4 eggs, May 31, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 4 eggs, May 24; 1 egg, May 31, Minneapolis, Fletcher.

ROBIN. Building, April 15, Hennepin Co., Barrett; building, April 24, feeding one young out of nest, May 29, Duluth, Moore; 3 eggs, May 10, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 3 eggs, May 18, Hennepin Co., Barrett; feeding young, May 21, Minneapolis, Holmberg; 4 eggs, May 24, Minneapolis, Fletcher; 4 eggs, May 24, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; feeding young, May 24, Minneapolis, Holmberg; May 23 building, 3 young June 6, St. Cloud, Lehrke; 4 young, June 16, Isanti Co., Barrett; feeding young, June 23, Ottertail Co., Pratt; feeding young, June 27, Minneapolis, Holmberg; feeding young, July 3, Crow Wing Co., Holmberg; 8 young, July 5, Duluth, Lakela; 3 young out of nest, July 8, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 6 young, July 21, Duluth, Lakela.

WILLOW THRUSH VEERY. 4 eggs, June 9, St. Louis Co., Barrett; 3 eggs, June 26, Harbor Island, Lake Superior, Lakela.

BLUEBIRD. 2 eggs and 1 young, April 30; 4 eggs, June 10; 12 young, July 30, Hennepin Co., Snyder. 4 young and 1 egg, June 17, Kandiyohi, Barrett; July 5, 2 young out of nest, Itasca Park, Longley.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Building, May 11, Old Frontenac, Barrett.

CEDAR WAXWING. Building, June 20, Crow Wing Co., Holmberg; 3 young, July 25, St. Louis Co., Lakela; 4 young feeding, Sept. 4, Lake Co., Lakela; June 28, building, Itasca Park, Longley.

STARLING. Feeding one young, June 8, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; feeding one young, July 15, Duluth, Moore.

RED-EYED VIREO. 2 pairs building, June 8, Washington Co., Barrett; nest June 15, 1 egg; June 28, building; June 30, two eggs and one cowbird egg, (one vireo egg on ground), Itasca Park, Longley.

WARBLING VIREO. Nest, June 18, Hennepin Co., Pratt.

YELLOW WARBLER. Building, May 17, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 4 eggs, June 14, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 4 eggs, June 30, St. Louis Co., Lakela; 1 out of nest, July 2, Crow Wing Co., Holmberg.

MYRTLE WARBLER. June 18, 1 young cowbird out of nest; July 1, 2 or 3 young out, Itasca Park, Longley.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. July 15, one young with male, Itasca Park, Longley.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. July 10, one young with male, Itasca Park, Longley.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. July 5, building, (July 9, 2 eggs and 1 cowbird egg), Itasca Park, Longley.

PINE WARBLER. July 7, feeding cowbird, Itasca Park, Longley.

OVEN-BIRD. 1 young, 4 eggs, June 22, Lake Co., Northup.

MOURNING WARBLER. July 9, feeding cowbird, Itasca Park, Longley.

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT. 4 eggs, July 16, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis 4 young, Aug. 12, St. Paul, Chesley.

ENGLISH SPARROW. In courtship display, Feb. 20; mating, April 18; pulling bark fibers from honeysuckle bush, May 8, feeding young out of nest, May 20; feeding young, July 23, Duluth, Moore.

BOBOLINK. Several birds seen car-

rying food and male seen feeding young out of nest, July 28, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK. 2 young, nest destroyed, June 16, Behrens; 2 young, June 27, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. 20 nests with from 1 to 4 eggs, May 24, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. 3 eggs, 2 young, May 29, Hennepin Co., Barrett; 5 nests, 20 eggs, June 1, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 4 eggs, June 1; destroyed, June 10, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 14 eggs and 1 young, June 12, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 2 eggs, June 21, Minneapolis, Futcher.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Carrying food to young, July 5 and 7, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 2 young, July 17, Duluth, Lakela.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. 3 eggs, May 20, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 3 eggs, May 24; 3 birds, May 31, Minneapolis, Futcher.

BRONZED GRACKLE. 1 egg, May 1, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 6 eggs, May 8, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 4 eggs, May 10, Hennepin Co., Pratt; nesting, June 8, St. Cloud, Lehrke; 4 young on ground, July 11; 9 light brown young on power line, July 31, Duluth, Moore.

COWBIRD. 1 young, fed by chipping sparrow, July 6, Duluth, Adams; young fed by song sparrow, July 24, Duluth, Lakela.

DICKCISSEL. Feeding young, July 2, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

PURPLE FINCH. 2 young July 26; 2 young, July 27, Duluth, Lakela.

PINE SISKIN. June 28, 4 young, Itasca Park, Longley.

GOLDFINCH. 4 young, Sept. 3, Fond du lac, Lakela; Sept. 7, 44 nests; Sept. 14, 19 more nests; Sept. 21, 80 nests in all found during July, August and September, likely 100 nests; 1/3 of nests not successful, Ramsey Co., Bro-

ther Pius, Meyer, Keenan; July 9, building, Itasca Park, Longley.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. Carrying food, Aug. 3, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW. 1 egg and 1 cowbird's egg, on lowland bordering slough, June 1, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis.

CHIPPING SPARROW. 4 eggs, June 12, Cook Co., Adams; 4 young, July 9, Hennepin Co., Pratt; 3 young, Aug. 4, Duluth, Lakela; 4 young, Aug. 20, Duluth, Hamerstan and Kahn; June 15, building; June 17, 3 eggs and 1 young;

June 24, 4 young just hatched; June 26, building, (June 30, 2 eggs; later, 3 eggs and 1 cowbird egg), Itasca Park, Longley.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW. 3 young, July 31; 4 eggs, Aug. 2, St. Paul, Bro. Pius.

SONG SPARROW. 4 eggs, and 2 cowbird's eggs, May 12, Duluth, Lakela; 4 eggs, May 26, Lac Qui Parle Co., Willis; 4 eggs, July 29 Itasca Co., Barrett; August 3, 5 eggs, Itasca Park, Longley.—Minneapolis Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Mud Lake Wildlife Refuge

by

Lewis L. Barrett

Late in the afternoon of August 25, 1947, the members of the animal ecology class of the University of Minnesota visited the Mud Lake National Wildlife Refuge which is located in northwestern Minnesota in Marshall County approximately 17 miles northeast of Thief River Falls. Although we were in the refuge for only about three hours it was soon evident that the area contained a wealth of birdlife and mammals. Both waterfowl and song birds are attracted to and nest in the refuge. Migratory birds as well as permanent resident birds, many fur bearers, and some big game mammals have found a haven here where they may breed and live in security in Mud Lake Refuge.

The Mud Lake Refuge was established to protect waterfowl, upland game birds, and shore birds by Executive Order dated March 23, 1937. The refuge includes about 69,717 acres of which 20,000 to 30,000 acres is in open water. The water area consists of several smaller lakes and in addition there is extensive marsh land. This provides suitable habitats to meet the needs of various water birds including diving ducks, grebes, surface feeding ducks, herons, coots, gallinules, terns, gulls, and shore birds. The average depth of the water is from 2 to 4 feet.

This area was a waterfowl paradise at the turn of the century and represented one of the best duck breeding areas in the state according to the reports of observers who were in the area in 1900. Wildlife had found here an ideal breeding ground prior to the advent of the drainage ditch. In 1909 drainage raised havoc with this wildlife mecca. The settlers of the area

were unable to meet the bond payments on the drainage project. Finally in 1937 the land was purchased by the Conservation Department of Minnesota through the U. S. Resettlement Administration. The area was then turned over to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be administered as the Mud Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

In order to restore this area to its former condition the drainage methods were revised. The outlets to the drainage ditches were blocked by installing water control gates at Judicial Ditch No. 11 and at the Thief River. In order to bring the water level to its former stage and to control the distribution of water in the refuge, dikes with proper spillways were built. Concrete roadways pass over some dikes. On such a dike, which was covered by concrete and a thin layer of gravel, was a roadway which was the feeding ground for some shore birds. It was at such a place that we had an excellent view of the greater yellow-legs and lesser yellow-legs. As these birds stood beside each other in close range the size difference between the 2 species was very evident.

The Thief Lake Game Refuge is located nearby, and some of the water leaving it drains into the Mud Lake Refuge. Most of the water feeds into the northeast side of Mud Lake refuge and it passes thru a series of pools which are so situated that the water level of adjacent pools is gradually lower. The drainage ditch carrying excess water from the refuge drains toward the west into Thief River.

A standard set of refuge buildings, such as are found on national waterfowl refuges, is located near a good

highway which passes thru the refuge. An observation tower permits one to scan much of the refuge area. From this tower we watched the flight of swallows, terns, shore birds, ducks, and a single cormorant which flew northward. Myriads of tree swallows and bank swallows seemed to fill the air as they fed upon insect life. At one time the swallows were so numerous in the refuge that when they perched on the telephone wires they packed 20 spans running between adjacent telephone poles. The black terns in their mottled newly-changed plumage were exceedingly numerous.

As we drove thru the refuge, sizeable flocks of ducks arose from the marshes and open waters. Many of these flocks consisted largely of mallards and blue-winged teal which are the commonest nesting ducks in the refuge. All of the "puddle ducks" occurring in Minnesota nest in the Mud Lake Refuge, although there are very few green-winged teal utilizing this breeding ground. Of the diving ducks the redhead, canvas-back, lesser scaup, and ring-neck are known to nest in the area. The number of ruddy ducks nesting in the refuge this year seems to be fewer than usual. The refuge has been the home of two nesting colonies of herring gulls until the high water level of 1947. Of the shore birds, semi-palmated plover and killdeer nest here. Grebes making the refuge their home were represented by both the Holboell's and pied-billed grebes. There were many young of the black tern.

In a census of the area which was made early in August it was estimated that there were about 30,000 ducks on Mud Lake Refuge. This represents a decrease from 1946 when at about a similar time a like count revealed that there were about 40,000 ducks in the area. The spring migrant duck population was down this year. Because of the cold weather in the early part of

December, 1947

the summer of 1947, mallards and pintails were way behind in incubation with some broods hatching as late as August 10.

This summer the Franklin's gull nests were drowned out by high water. Very few coots returned to nest in the refuge. The sharp-tailed grouse population is down in the area. Some godwits stopped at the refuge in 1946 and again in 1947. Sandhill cranes and Canada geese are regular migrants which pass thru the refuge area.

A considerable mammal population is to be found at Mud Lake Refuge. In a winter census made in January of 1947 there were 29 moose and 742 deer in this area. Black bear, timber wolf, coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk, weasel, and rabbits occur on the refuge. Mink are abundant, and we saw 2 of these sleek little mammals while making the rounds of the sanctuary. There were plenty of signs of muskrats, and they furnish the most important fur crop. In 1946, 4,000 muskrat pelts were taken out of an estimated 12,000 rats in the area. There were 260 mink trapped in 1947. The Federal Government and County share in any fur sales of the fur bearers trapped on the refuge. There were 15 active beaver colonies in 1946 and this number has increased this year.

The following 50 species of birds were seen in Mud Lake Refuge on August 25: Holboell's grebe, pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, American bittern, mallard, black duck, gadwall, baldpate, American pintail, blue-winged teal, shoveler, wood duck, redhead, ring-necked duck, canvas-back, ruddy duck, marsh hawk, sora, Florida gallinule, coot, killdeer, spotted sandpiper, solitary sandpiper, greater yellow-legs, lesser yellow-legs, common tern, black tern, short-eared owl, whip-poor-will, nighthawk, belted kingfisher, flicker, downy woodpecker, eastern

kingbird, Arkansas kingbird, tree swallow, bank swallow, barn swallow, purple martin, crow, catbird, starling, English sparrow, western meadowlark, yel-

low-headed blackbird, red-winged blackbird, goldfinch, and vesper sparrow.—
Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Dove Protection Advances

by

Guy Atherton

Friends of wildlife conservation, who were gratified when the Minnesota Legislature added a clause to the game code giving complete protection to mourning doves, may be interested in some further developments along this line.

I have been carrying on a one-man campaign to reach the conservation department of southern states, in the hope that we can get more co-operation in the South. It would be an easy matter to fill an entire issue of *The Flicker* with the material I have accumulated, but I will refrain, and only touch a few of the high spots.

Bert E. Thomas, Director of Conservation for Alabama, writes: "I am thoroughly in accord with you in the protection of the mourning dove. This year we have changed the season to open on November 27 and to close January 25. Heretofore, we have had a split season starting October 1, at which time the birds were too young. In this way we hope to have more doves in the near future. We have 10 a day limit with 10 in possession, and I believe this will help to propagate them.

"As you know, when September 1 rolls around the hunters want to get out and kill game. This we have stopped by opening our season on squirrels and rabbits on the 15th of October."

L. S. Montgomery, Commissioner, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for Louisiana, wrote a lengthy letter, from which a brief quotation is especially interesting: "The State of Louisiana never has the great concentration of migratory doves that they have in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. I am sure that the few migratory doves that are killed in Louisiana each hunt-

ing season will not affect the supply of doves that go to Minnesota each spring. If the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the states of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida would give adequate protection to the migratory mourning doves, the northern states would have nothing to worry about the supply of their doves in the South"

I mentioned this matter to Governor Millard F. Caldwell of Florida. He replied: "Considerable attention has been given this subject in recent years by sportsmen and others. I will be glad to have the matter considered carefully by the proper officials in Florida so that they may submit to succeeding legislatures any proposals they feel are justified."

This is not much of a promise; but the point is that if some of us make it clear to people of the southern states that we of the North would like to see our mourning doves come back, there will be enough interest in the tourist business to prompt protective action.

Governor M. E. Thompson of Georgia passed the matter along to the Fish and Wildlife Service. No reply was received from them.

Acknowledgment of my letters and circulars was received from all the governors written to with the exception of Missouri and Arkansas.

The next great phase of the campaign centers in Illinois. This state receives the bulk of the northern-nesting doves from a territory of many thousands of square miles. The long river valleys of the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Ohio touch the state, and numerous other rivers serve as flight routes for the birds. I have had some correspondence with Livingston

E. Osborne, Director of Conservation. Mr. Osborne says: "We had a larger flight of doves this year than in previous years. Therefore, I do not see how we could agree with your conclusions that doves need further protection. If I thought that, we would be among the first to ask for a closed season."

To this fatuous reasoning I replied: "You, of course, know that the purpose of giving complete protection to mourning doves in the northern states is to increase the numbers of our doves because of their value to agriculture and because many people regard them with sentiments of affection. In view of this purpose, it becomes a question as to how much Illinois gains in ignoring the role of good neighbor and nullifying our efforts by turning the doves over to hunters, mostly of the pop-gun variety."

I sent postal cards to all members of the Illinois Assembly (202) stressing the good neighbor plea and calling attention to the small value of the mourning dove as a game bird and its great value to agriculture. (Ten doves weigh less than one average size pheasant.) John E. Miller, Representative of the

50th district, wrote and asked for more data, saying that he was in harmony with my plans.

I have also had some correspondence with the officers of the American Humane Association, and we may receive some valuable assistance in that quarter. The Chicago Ornithological Society has "decided that steps should be taken toward the start of a campaign for the protection of these doves," and I have sent their Conservation Committee the data that I now have available.

It looks as if I should have to continue acting the role of bur. I should like to feel that I am a guiding light; but the *dolce far niente* (sweet-doing-nothing) attitude of the friends of the dove leaves me no choice. I must just continue to be a thorn in the flesh of those who are in a position to do effective work and to tell our opponents that they don't know what they are talking about when they call mourning doves game birds. Oh, well, everyone who tries to advance the cause of conservation gets kicked around. A few kicks won't shorten my life—maybe lengthen it. Selah! (let's change the subject!) —St. Paul Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Seasonal Bird Report

by

Mary Lupient

In the southern two-thirds of Minnesota the season from August 10, 1947 to November 7, 1947, was unusually warm. August was hot, the temperature being almost constantly at 90° or above. The month of September was the warmest in 128 years, although severe frost was reported in northern Minnesota, September 15. The October Indian Summer was the hottest on record. Winter arrived suddenly on November 7, ushered in by a severe snow storm with high winds and a temperature drop to 11°.

The duck migration from the North appeared to be delayed by the unseasonably hot weather so that few appeared during the hunting season. Due to the fact that the duck population is low, this will help in some measure to avert the dangerous situation which appears to be imminent unless something is done to conserve the ducks that now exist. At a session of the Convention held in New York City, October 18 to 21 inclusive, by the National Audubon Society, the status of ducks in the United States and Canada was discussed at some length by Arthur M. Bartley, Ducks Unlimited; Dr. Ira Gabrielson, Wildlife Management Institute; Robert Smith, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and Albert M. Day, also of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. These speakers, except Mr. Bartley, estimated that on the basis of a duck census taken in the United States and Canada, the number of breeding ducks was 54,000,000; Mr. Bartley estimated 110,000,000. There were approximately 2,000,000 duck stamps sold for the 1947 hunting season. Some of the speakers expressed the opinion that the greatly diminished

number of ducks is due to the fact that after the war the number of hunters nearly doubled, but that the season was not shortened in accordance. Also that some of the habitats were destroyed by drainage and the land cultivated for the purpose of raising grain which was sold at an all-time high during the past season.

Geese began migrating through the Twin City area during the latter part of September. Dr. Dwain Warner reported geese on September 19, and flocks were seen by several observers during the next few weeks. On October 23 a huge migration of geese was heard passing over in the night and during the day many flocks were reported. A number of blue and snow geese rested a few hours on white Bear Lake and also on Lake Harriet.

Due no doubt to the heat, some of the flycatchers stayed later than usual, and during the first week of October numbers of nighthawks were seen. The latest date recorded was October 8, by John Jarosz of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History.

The shore bird migration was about normal, the number of them diminished as August and September wore on, and a few stragglers stayed unusually late—latest date, greater yellow-legs near St. Paul on November 6, Dr. W. J. Breckenridge.

A few American pipits were reported near the Twin Cities by A. C. Rosenwinkel on October 11 and October 18, altogether five were seen.

From November 7 to date of this writing November 19, bluebirds, robins, and meadow larks in unusual numbers sought shelter in the Twin Cities from snow storms and cold. They were re-

ported by William Cox, Miss Amy Chambers, Miss Severena C. Holmberg, and others. Approximately 250 robins, seen in parks in Minneapolis on November 15, were reported to the Museum of Natural History by E. D. Swedenborg. On November 16 Mrs. Rollo H. Wells reported having seen the towhee, and on November 19 Dean Malcolm Willey of the University of Minnesota reported a catbird and brown thrasher at his feeder.

November 17, Dr. W. J. Breckenridge and Dr. Dwain Warner made observations along the Minnesota River and in the adjacent bottomlands. This area is just south of Minneapolis. They saw

the following interesting list of birds: mallard 60, black duck 12, pintail 6, gadwall 5, baldpate 3, shoveler 15, blue-winged teal 1, green-winged teal 12, pied-billed grebe 2, cormorant 60, coot 50, Lapland longspur 5, killdeer 1, immature bald eagle 1, pileated woodpecker 1, red-bellied woodpecker 1, meadowlark 7, marsh hawk 1, several red-tailed hawks, also several Wilson's snipe, and hundreds of red-winged and rusty blackbirds. Wood ducks were seen in this area on November 13. Dr. Breckenridge observed a mourning dove on November 18 near Minneapolis.—**Mary Lupient, Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota.**

NOTES OF INTEREST

BANK SWALLOWS AT GLYNDON, CLAY COUNTY—Nesting places for bank swallows are uncommon in this area and new locations are quickly taken over. Early last spring a pit was opened near the highway just east of Glyndon, Clay County, Minnesota. We noticed the swallows around it during the summer but did not examine it until August 18. The main portion was about 50 feet square and 10 feet deep. There was water in it at the time but counts made from the top of the opposite bank showed approximately 261 burrows. Only about 10 birds were flying about at the time. There had been many more.

Three hours (2-5 p.m.) of observing at Buffalo State Park, Muskoda, gave a list of 29 species of which the only one of special interest was the olive-sided flycatcher. Several of these birds were flycatching from tall trees along the river bank.—O. A. Stevens, Gale W. Monson, and Bruce Harris, Fargo, North Dakota.

DIFFERENT SPECIES NEST IN SAME TREE—Is the idea of getting along in peace and harmony in the air? This year two pairs of birds of different species built nests in the same spruce tree in two different locations in St. Cloud.

On May 23, the week following the MOU meeting, in the A. J. Tschumperlin grounds across Saint Germain Street from the City Hall, we saw a spruce tree with a robin's nest about seven feet from the ground, and a mourning dove's nest on the opposite side of the same tree about six feet higher up. Both the robin and the mourning dove were on their nests May 23. The tree is not more than fifteen feet from the sidewalk where there are street lights and much traffic day and night. Mr. Tschumperlin reported that robins and doves were about the grounds with young birds a week later.

We saw another apartment house spruce tree at the A. M. Alexander home, 708 Washington Memorial Drive on June 6. Three young robins in a nest on a lower branch were about fully feathered, in fact, they left the nest the next day. Grackles had a nest in the same tree at the same time and were on the nest June 8.

Mrs. Alexander reported that a mourning dove tried to build a nest in the same tree at the same time but was discouraged by the other two. The mourning dove then made a nest in a spruce tree about two hundred feet away.—Mrs. George W. Lehrke, St. Cloud Bird Club, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS NEAR ST. PAUL—An interesting experience was the finding of young golden-crowned kinglets in Lake Vadnais pine forest this summer. On July 5 I saw two adult females feed several fledglings each in the branches of some Norway spruce near a slough bordering the pine forest. The typical "see-see-see" call attracted my attention. As I identified the mother birds and the young, I heard kinglets call in trees not far away. After this observation I saw and heard the kinglets in the same general area as follows, but never until I had searched for an hour or longer:

July 12. Two adult males, in full song; two birds not so well seen as to crown patch (may have been either male or female or young).

August 26. Two males, one female and two without crown patch (young of the

year), feeding through the dense pine crowns in a loose flock.

September 6. Three adults and two young seen and heard.

September 20. Seven or eight kinglets, one or two young among the adults. These were no doubt, as Dr. Breckenridge suggested, one or two families staying together until migration time.—A. C. Rosenwinkel, St. Paul Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Editor's Note: This observation is of particular interest not only because it is the southernmost nesting record for this species in Minnesota but because it represents a northern species moving southward into a replanted coniferous habitat.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK IN BEMIDJI—On August 11, 1947, my sister and I were in Bemidji, Minnesota, and in a thicket of shrubbery interspersed with tall pines, on the edge of the city, we saw the black-headed grosbeak. We saw it again on the following day and observed it for some time feeding in the tops of the taller pines. It is not mentioned in Dr. Roberts' *BIRDS OF MINNESOTA* or in the *LOGBOOK OF MINNESOTA BIRD LIFE* as having been observed in the state.—Mathilde Henkel, Detroit, Michigan.

Editor's Note: The above sight record recalls two other similar observations that to my knowledge, have never been published. Mrs. Walter Olin reported observing on June 6, 1940, what must have been a black-headed grosbeak on Minnesota Point at Duluth. On December 27, 1945, Sister Estelle at the College of St. Benedict at St. Joseph, Minnesota, reported seeing two of these birds. No specimens of this western species have ever been collected in Minnesota and sight records are not considered sufficient to establish beyond a doubt the occurrence of a bird in a new area. Such records as these, however, tend to support each other and to indicate strongly that this bird does occur in Minnesota.—J. W. B.

OCCURRENCE OF THE AMERICAN EGRET AND LITTLE BLUE HERON IN NORTHEASTERN IOWA—During the year 1944 the American egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) was a regular summer visitor in the sloughs along the Mississippi river between Lansing, Iowa, and La Crescent, Minnesota, but could not be called common. During the summer of 1945 there was an increase in the birds seen, but during 1946 the number was greatly increased and the number of birds seen was such that they could be classed as common during the period of their post-breeding migration. They were in greater numbers than the great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), which is a constant summer resident. The former birds were also reported in other locations in central and southern Minnesota. In the area mentioned in Iowa and southern Minnesota this species was not found nesting.

For the summer of 1947 the American egret was conspicuous by its absence; the writer did not see a single specimen. In checking over reports from middle west observers in the past, it seems that there is a cycle for the visits of these birds. Their absence in 1947 could not be due to food conditions, as the frogs and small fish were present in their usual numbers. During the spring the water was high and we had snow on May 29, but at this time the egrets were probably busy raising their families in the south. From July to September the weather was hot and dry, but this should not affect a bird of the sloughs.

It would be interesting to know whether the same absence was noted in other sections of the middle west for 1947.

The little blue heron (*Florida coerulea coerulea*) when seen in northeastern Iowa is always in the white plumage of the young birds. This bird is always rare, one or two being seen yearly during 1945, and 1946, but during 1947, like the egret, it was absent.—Chas A. Stewart, R. F. D. No. 1, New Albin, Iowa.

Editor's Note: Dr. Stewart would appreciate getting additional information on the frequency this year of the American egret. To date there have been no authentic records for the little blue heron in Minnesota. Recording the first record for this bird in the state will make an interesting field problem for southeastern Minnesota observers.

JOINT MEETING IN CANADA—At last the joint meeting of the Duluth Bird Club and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists took place on May 31, 1947. Since 1941 we have been waiting for the war conditions to end, so that a trip might be possible. The idea all started when a group of us were on a trip to Canada. When stopping at Rosspoint for a cabin, Claude Garton was engaged for a deep sea fishing trip, and when he learned our interest in birds, we had an early morning field trip. At Silver Islet we met Mrs. Claude Philpot, and I enjoyed a trek, through a swamp with her, especially to observe orchids and birds.

A long Memorial weekend this year made it possible for us to accept the invitation of the Federation to join them on their annual spring field trip. Sixteen from Duluth were in attendance. The weather was exceedingly chilly while driving north and back, but Saturday turned out warm and sunny even though a strong dusty wind was blowing.

Early Saturday and Sunday morning Mr. Garton conducted us on a trip around the lake and park north of Port Arthur. Warblers were especially prominent in our listings. Then, of course, the group of Minnesotans found time for looking and shopping in the china shops.

Saturday afternoon a group of about one hundred met at the high school. After mixing up the Canadian and Minnesota people in the cars, we proceeded out past Kakabeka Falls to a country school for headquarters. Here the group had their pictures taken by Henry Gilbert of Duluth, after which we were asked to join whichever group of interest we wished to. The bird walk was led by Dr. Arthur Allen, the plant group by Claude Garton, and the geology group by several able geologists. A "cracking" good time was had by the rock collectors, who went to an old silver mine. Seventeen minerals were reported found in the rocks. Birds were not numerous in the valley, but from the count throughout the day about 90 species were reported.

All groups returned to the country school house lawn about 5:30 p.m. for a super picnic dinner. Each person from Duluth was a guest of a different Canadian, and oh, how we enjoyed the food. Pasties and all were on the menu.

At a short business meeting Colonel Deer told us about the progress of the conservation program in Canada. Our president, Joel Bronoel, invited the group to come to Duluth on one of our spring field trips.

A highlight for many of us was experienced on the way back into Fort William. We heard the courtship flight of many woodcocks, but only faintly saw their spiraling shadows in the dusk. Ringing songs of the thrushes and white-throated sparrows added to the pleasure of the hour. A bright moon and the lights of the cities around Thunder Bay added to the enjoyment of our trip.

We deeply appreciated the hospitality of our Canadian neighbors and greatly enjoyed our first joint meeting with a group having a common interest in nature

and its perpetuation and conservation.—Evelyn Jones Putnam, Duluth Bird Club, Duluth, Minnesota.

MOTHER NATURE AT WORK KEEPING HER "BALANCE"—On September 20 in the farther end of Lake Vadnais pine forest, I witnessed the struggle of a red squirrel for its life against the attacking dashes of an immature Cooper's hawk. The hawk made four dashes at the animal but failed to catch it because it managed to dash quickly to the other side of the trunk into some thick sheltering pine branches. Between darts the hawk would perch on some branch in the same tree in which the squirrel was squealing while making little furious dashes towards the hawk. At one time the hawk uttered his vicious-sounding, typical call. After the fourth attempt the hawk flew to a near-by pine. The squirrel, emboldened, must have forgotten caution, because with a sudden swift dash the hawk shot into the foliage of the squirrel's tree. I could not see the two for a second or two, but the squirrel's squeals stopped abruptly and then I saw the hawk fly slowly away among the pines with something dangling from its talons. Everything was silent, and another little woodlore drama had been enacted—Mother Nature at work keeping her "balance."—A. C. Rosenwinkel, St. Paul Bird Club, St. Paul, Minnesota.

CALL NOTES

The National Audubon Society held its annual Convention on October 18 to 21 inclusive in New York City. Members attending from Minnesota were Kenneth Morrison, Minnesota Representative of the National Audubon Society, Mrs. Helen Morrison, Miss Caroline Larson, Mrs. Dorothy Beard, and Mrs. Mary Lupient.

The discussions at the sessions were of exceptional interest. Two field trips were scheduled, one to Moutauk Point, Long Island, the other to the Audubon Nature Center, Greenwich, Connecticut. Leaders for the field trips were Roger Tory Peterson, Richard Pough, Allan Cruikshank, and Carl W. Buchheister, Vice President.

One of the objectives of the National Audubon Society is to protect and preserve wildlife and natural resources. Membership in this organization helps to give it the moral and financial support it needs to accomplish this great work.—M. L.

* * *

The Range Naturalists Club is the name of the bird club which is being organized on the iron range. Several organizational meetings have already been held. Mrs. Dorothy Beard of Eveleth, formerly of the St. Paul Bird Club, and Ken Morrison, Minnesota Representative of the National Audubon Society, have been working hard to launch such a club. Its activities will include not only the study of birds but other closely allied natural sciences.

Mr. Morrison reports that the club has become a branch of the National Audubon Society. It is to be hoped that it will also become affiliated with the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. This will entitle its MOU members to receive *The Flicker*.

December, 1947

Another habitat group, the Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*), has been completed at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. This group was made possible by a gift from a group of 15 of Dr. Thomas S. Roberts' friends and admirers. The background was painted by F. L. Jaques, noted wildlife artist, and the foreground was constructed by John Jarosz. The work was done under the direction of Dr. W. J. Breckenridge, Director of the Museum.

* * *

The annual winter series of free public lectures on wildlife subjects at the University of Minnesota's Museum of Natural History was resumed on Sunday, November 2, and will be continued each Sunday at 3 p.m. through April 11, 1948.

The majority of the programs are presented by Dr. W. J. Breckenridge, Director of the Museum, Harvey L. Gunderson, Dr. D. W. Warner, and Donald K. Lewis, members of the Museum staff.

The schedule of the programs remaining is as follows: December 7, "A Naturalist's Tour of Minnesota"; December 14, "Indian Methods of Wild Ricing and Maple Sugaring," Richard R. Sackett, Minnesota Historical Society and Monroe P. Killy, Eastman Kodak Company; December 21 and 28, (Museum open, but no program); January 4, "Minnesota and its Animals in Winter"; January 11, "Birds of Some Audubon Refuges," Kenneth Morrison, Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society; January 18, "Famous Bird and Flower Prints," Dr. Dwight Minnich, Department of Zoology, University of Minnesota; January 25, "Mesa Verde National Park

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and its Cliff Dwellings,"; February 1, "Eastern Minnesota Nature Trips"; February 8, "Birds of Utah's Bear River Marshes"; February 15, "Managing Wild Life"; February 22, "Decorative Flowers of the Southland," Milton D. Thompson, Director Minneapolis Science Museum; February 29, "Birds Beasts, and the Rainbow"; March 7, "Recording Bird Songs"; March 14, "Birds Can Be Spectacular"; March 21, "Rocky Mountain Flowers," Dr. S. R. B. Cooke, Professor of Metallurgy, University of Minnesota; March 28, "Some Glimpses of Local Bird Life"; April 4, "Realm of the Wild"; April 11, "Select an Outdoor Hobby."

The Museum which is located at University and Seventeenth Avenues Southeast, Minneapolis, is open to the public, free of charge, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on week days, Sundays and most holidays from 2 to 5 p.m., and Wednesdays, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

* * *

Evelyn Jones of the Duluth Bird Club has changed her name. She is now Mrs. Harvey Putnam. Mr. and Mrs. Putnam are also members of the Duluth Hiking Club of which Mr. Putnam is the President.

* * *

William Longley of St. Paul has secured a new member for the MOU having entered the field of matrimony. He

was married on October 18 to Miss Dorothy Geddes at the home of the bride's parents, Dr. and Mrs. William F. Geddes of St. Paul. Mr. Longley is continuing his studies at the University of Minnesota.

* * *

Byron Harrell of St. Paul is a Research Assistant at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. He received his B. A. degree from the University of Minnesota in August. In addition to his work at the Museum, he is a student in the Graduate School. Eventually he plans to specialize in ornithology.

* * *

The National Audubon Society has accepted an invitation to establish its Minnesota office at the science museum on the fourth floor of the Minneapolis public library. Ken Morrison, Minnesota Representative of the Audubon Society, will direct Audubon activities in the Upper Midwest from there. He will have available, literature, books, and other materials regularly handled by the Society's service department. Mr Morrison will be glad to help anyone who is interested in establishing a bird club in his community. His office address is Museum Minneapolis Public Library, 1001 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis 3, Minnesota. —S. C. H.

MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Directory of Membership

November 1, 1947

This list of members was prepared from our membership records as of November 1, 1947. Please check your name and address for accuracy. If any material error is found, please notify the treasurer, Mrs. I. A. Lupient, 212 Bedford Street, S. E., Minneapolis 14, Minnesota, as she is handling the mailing of *The Flicker* this year. In order to insure continued receipt of *The Flicker*, please notify the treasurer promptly of any change of address, and also pay your dues promptly. Membership in the MOU is \$1.00 per year.

The following MOU membership list includes 497 members, eleven of whom subscribe to *The Flicker* through their membership in several clubs. There are members in 49 different cities and towns in Minnesota; 16 states outside of Minnesota; Anchorage, Alaska; and Ft. William and Port Arthur in Canada. In addition to its members *The Flicker* is sent in exchange to 23 natural science magazines.

Club Membership Symbols: Cloquet Bird Club, Clo; Duluth & Lakeside Branch of Duluth Bird Club, Dul; Minneapolis Audubon Society, Aud; Minneapolis Bird Club, Mpl; Minnesota Bird Club, Min; St. Cloud Bird Club, Stc; St. Paul Bird Club, Stp; T. S. Roberts Ornithological Society, Tsr; Members at Large, Lar; Student members, S.

Unless otherwise indicated in the address, the state is Minnesota.

MEMBERS

Aase, J. M., 4533 Drew Ave. S., Minneapolis 10	(Mpl)
Adam, Miss Margaret, 1803 E. Fifth St., Duluth 5	(Dul)
Adams, Miss Hulda, 1725 Woodland Ave., Duluth 3	(Dul)
Adams, Marvin, 845 Hague Ave., St. Paul	(Stp)
Aldritt, Florence, Excelsior	(Mpl)
Aler, Miss Lulu M., 301 Newton Ave North, Minneapolis 5	(Aud)
Allen, Dr. A. E., Regional Lab., City Hall, Ft. William, Ontario, Canada	(Dul)
Allie, Mrs. Marjorie E., 301 Laurel Ave., St. Paul	(Stp)
Anderson, Mrs. A. E., Box 286, Wadena	(Lar)
Anderson, Miss Doris K., 1010 Cloquet Ave., Cloquet	(Clo)
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 Roberts, Henry, 2132 Woodland Ave., Duluth(S) (Dul)
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 Rom, William, Ely(Min)
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 Sagn, Mrs. Ragna, Cloquet(Clo)
 Samuelson, Helen V., 1309 Dayton Ave., St. Paul(Stp)
 Sandve, Rubean, 883 Twenty-third Ave. S. E., Minneapolis 4(Min)
 Sanford, Miss Edith, Cloquet(Clo)
 Sanford, Miss Georgiana, Cloquet(Clo)
 Sanford, Janette, Sanford Hall, U. of Minn., Minneapolis 14(Min)
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 Sather, Carlyle, 1008 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul 4(Stp)
 Sather, Eileen, 1008 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul 4(Stp)
 Savage, Mrs. Arthur H., 15 Crocus Hill, St. Paul 2(Stp)
 Schaefer, Mrs. Dagna E., 1317 Summit Ave., St. Paul 5(Stp)
 Schauer, Herbert W., Route #4, 53 West Magnolia Ave., St. Paul 3(Stp)
 Schaut, George J., 510 Prospect Ave., Minneapolis 9(Mpl)
 Schmid, Clara M., 1230 Stanford, St. Paul 5(Stp)
 Scholtz, Harriet R., 4621 Ewing Ave. South, Minneapolis 10(Mpl)
 Schroeder, Walter, 905 Fourth Ave. South, Minneapolis 2(Stp)
 Schultz, Dorothy E., 4920 Clinton Ave. South, Minneapolis 9(Mpl)
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 Sellers, V. O., 125 Oak Grove St., Minneapolis 4(Mpl)
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 Sharbo, Mrs. Walter, 1491 Hamline Ave., St. Paul(Stp)
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 Slusser, Herbert, 75 Cleveland, St. Paul(Stp)
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 Smith, George, Minnesota Power & Light, Duluth(Dul)
 Smith, Miss Helen C., 1523 E. First St., Duluth 5(Dul)
 Smith, Nora M., 513 Fourth St., Bemidji(Stp)
 Smith, Mrs. Victor C., 2300 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis 4(Mpl)
 Smythe, Leon L., 2103 Bryant Ave. South, Minneapolis 5(Mpl)
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 Spracher, Macy, 228 Thomas Ave. South, Minneapolis 5(Mpl)
 Sutton, Percy, 513 N. James Ave., Minneapolis 5(Mpl)
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 Stevens, S. George, 1000 Tarrey Bldg., Duluth(S) (Dul)
 Straw, Richard M., Como Station, Route #3, St. Paul 8(Min)
 Strawn, Mrs. Zona Owen, 4282 Queen Ave. South, Minneapolis 10(Lar)
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 Taylor, Wilbur L., 4809 Knox Ave. South, Minneapolis 10(Mpl)
 Thabes, Mrs. J. A., 421 Holly Street, Brainerd(Lar)
 Theunte, The Rev. Adelarde, St. John's University, Collegeville(Stc)
 Thexton, Margaret, Hastings(Mpl)
 Thompson, Mrs. J. A., 3420 Holmes Ave. South, Minneapolis 8(Min)
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 Tuttle, Robert, Grey Eagle(S) (Tsr)
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 Tvedt, Harold B., 1911 Grand Ave., St. Paul 5(Stp)
 University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch Library, Duluth 5(Lar)
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 Waid, Arthur V., 3527 Third St. N. E., Minneapolis 13(Mpl)
 Walkinshaw, Dr. Lawrence,
 1703 Central Tower Ave., Battle Creek, Michigan(Min)
 Wall, Mrs, Nancy, Cloquet(Clo)
 Walsh, Robert W., 1364 Hartford Ave., St. Paul 5(Stp)

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Wells, Mrs. Nanele K., 1238 Como Blvd. E., St. Paul 3	(Stp)
Wells, Mrs. R. H., 3819 Zenith Ave. South, Minneapolis 10	(Aud)
Werges, R. H., Route 9, White Bear Branch, St. Paul 10	(Stp)
Wheeler, Mrs. Maida, 4641 Colfax Ave. South, Minneapolis 9	(Mpl)
Whipple, Vernon L., 2060 Grand Ave., St. Paul 5	(Stp)
Whitesel, Mrs. R. E., 5134 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis 9	(Mpl)
Williamson, Inez E., Emerson Ave. South, Minneapolis 8	(Mpl)
Willis, Franklin, Marietta,	(Lar)
Woolsey, Ralph, 20158 Observation Drive, Topanga, California	(Min)
Wubbels, Wallace, Spicer	(S) (Tsr)
Yetter, Thomas, 824 Fourth Ave. South, St. Cloud	(S) (Tsr)
Yoemen, Miss Mae E., 5301 Thirty-fifth Ave. South, Minneapolis 17	(Mpl)
Zobel, Reuben L., 1200 West Idaho, St. Paul	(Stp)
Zickrick, Theo., 17 East 24th St., Minneapolis 4	(Min)
Zimmerman, Fern, Cresco, Iowa	(Lar)

EXCHANGES

- American Midland Naturalist, Dr. Theodore Just, Editor, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- Audubon Magazine, Editor, 1006 Fifth Ave., New York City 28, N. Y.
- The Auk, John T. Zimmer, Editor, Museum of Natural History, 79th St. & Central Park W., New York City, N. Y.
- Canadian Nature Magazine, c/o Mr. A. R. Whittmore, 18 Alvin Ave., Toronto 12 Ontario, Canada.
- The Chickadee, Editor, Worcester Museum of Natural History, 12 State St., Worcester, Mass.
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History, c/o Edythe G. Williams, Librarian, 2717 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 15, Ohio.
- The Condor, Cooper Ornithological Club, c/o University of California, Library, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.
- The Dickcissel, 1903 Ross St., Sioux City Club, Sioux City Iowa, c/o Mrs. H. T. Lambert.
- Natural History Bulletin, Grand Canyon Natural History Association, P. O. Box 219, Grand Canyon, Arizona.
- Iowa Bird Life, Editor, Winthrop, Iowa.
- Jack Pine Warbler, Dr. Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, Editor, Central National Tower, Battle Creek, Michigan.
- The Kentucky Warbler, Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, Editor, 3011 Meade Ave., Louisville 4, Ky.
- L'Association Forestiere, Quebecoise 2 Cote D'Abraham, c/o Dr. A. R. Grobert, Mgr., Quebec, Canada.
- Maine Audubon Society Bulletin, c/o Alfred O. Gross, 11 Boody St., Brunswick, Maine.
- The Migrant, Dr. James T. Tanner, Editor, Dept. of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.
- Migratory Bird Investigation, c/o Frederick C. Lincoln, Div. of Wildlife Research,

U. S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Minnesota State Historical Society, c/o Arthur J. Larson, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.
Nebraska Bird Review, c/o Div. of Zoology, Dr. Edson Fichter, University of
Nebraska State Museum, 101 Morrill Hall, Lincoln 8, Nebraska.
The Oriole, Georgia Ornithological Society, Dept. of Zoology, University of
Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
The Passenger Pigeon, c/o N. R. Barger 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison, Wisconsin.
The Warbler, Des Moines Audubon Society, Des Moines, Iowa.
Wildlife Review, Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior, Chicago 54, Illinois.
The Wilson Bulletin, c/o Josselyn Van Tyne, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor,
Michigan.

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Affiliated Societies

CLOQUET BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Louise Stender; Vice President, Miss Doris Anderson; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Helen Berg; Editor, Miss Adeline Peterson.

Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Cloquet High School at 7:30 p.m.

DULUTH BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Frances Riddle; Vice President, Ralph Boeder; Secretary, Miss Helen C. Smith; Treasurer, Miss Harriet Lockhart; Editor, Mrs. Evelyn Jones Putnam.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month of the school year at 7:30 p.m. at the Duluth Branch, University of Minnesota.

LAKEVIEW BRANCH OF THE DULUTH BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Freida Beier; Vice President, Mrs. John Thomas; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Wernowsky.

Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the homes of the members.

MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers: President, Mrs. G. R. Magney; Vice President, Mrs. Harry W. Rice; Treasurer, Mrs. Edgar W. Bedford; Recording Secretary, Miss A. Glasoe; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Sowden; Field Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Thompson; Auditor, Mrs. Gaylord Davidson.

Meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Walker Branch Library. Field trips during April and May on Tuesdays and Fridays.

MINNEAPOLIS BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Florence Nelson; Vice President, George Rickert; Secretary, Mrs. Charles Snyder; Treasurer, Mrs. Edith Kees.

Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Public Library Museum.

MINNESOTA BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Harvey Gunderson; Vice President, Miss Theodora Melone; Secretary, Mrs. I. A. Lupient; Treasurer, Byron Harrell.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, except June, July, August, and September, at 8:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota.

ST. CLOUD BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Monica Misho; Vice President, Mrs. Charles Beacom; Secretary-treasurer, Miss Loretta Rosenberger.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from October through March in the committee room of the public library at 8:00 p.m.

T. S. ROBERTS ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Officers: President, Miss Mavis Scott; Vice President, Robert Fox; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Dolores Olson; Advisor, G. W. Friedrich.

Meetings are held bi-monthly February through May at the St. Cloud State Teachers College.

ST. PAUL BIRD CLUB

Officers: President, Kenneth Morrison; Vice President, Leonard Lustig; Treasurer, R. A. Kortmann; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Irene Knapton; Recording Secretary, Miss Ruth Arnquist; Directors at Large, Mrs. R. M. Elliott and Miss Genevieve Clark.

Meetings are held at the St. Paul public library at 7:45 p.m., the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May.