
THE FLICKER

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

1932

The FLICKER is the official organ of the Minnesota Bird Club, and is issued on or about Feb. 15, May 15, Oct. 15, and Dec. 15. By a decision at the last business meeting, the club now has two classes of members, Associate Members (Dues 50¢ yearly), and Active Members (Dues \$1, yearly). The class of membership is optional with individuals. Dues should be paid in advance to the Secretary-Treasurer, Marius Morse, 4031 - 40th Avenue N., Robbinsdale. President, Donald Fischer, Shakopee. Editor, Gustav Swanson, 3305 - 47th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The regular meeting, January 14, was largely occupied with the exchange of current bird news, after which Bill Cummins, one of our recently acquired members, showed us some recent bird books. This was followed by a business session.

The February meeting of the Minneapolis Audubon Society was in charge of several members of the Minnesota Bird Club. Alden Risser spoke of his experiences in Texas and Mexico last summer. Marius Morse told of some nest-finding experiences, Sterling Brackett related the adventures of his summer in western Minnesota, and Donald Fischer gave an illustrated talk on the trip made by five members of the club to the Harmony Cave, the largest cave in Minnesota, early last fall.

It is with considerable gratification that we note the increasing interest taken in birds by people as a whole. The heavy snows of the past few weeks have created great difficulties in food-finding for many birds, and we have been very much pleased to find that a great many feeding stations are being cared for. Hardly a day passes but that we see notices in the daily papers urging that the birds be fed during the period when their food is covered. We can commend this spirit to every member of the Minnesota Bird Club, and notes from the feeding stations of two members in this issue will prove that any energy and funds thus expended are amply repaid in the satisfaction a bird lover finds in attracting birds to his home.

A MINNESOTA HOLIDAY BIRD CENSUS

Gustav Swanson

There is, we believe, little doubt but that the present winter has been one of the most remarkable in recent years for bird students of the state; we believe that more species of birds have been seen throughout the state this winter than in any winter thus far recorded. The reasons for this record include both the extreme mildness of the season and the greater number of people who have been afield this year.

An effort has been made to compile the records of all who were birding during the holiday period from Dec. 20th to January 3rd, and from these records we find that no less than 71 species were observed on those 15 days, in the state of Minnesota. Most of these records were made in the eastern part of the state, but here the localities range from the north shore of Lake Superior to Winona, and because of the wide range of the localities and the number of people who were afield we feel that these records represent a reasonably accurate cross-section of the birds that were present during that season.

There are a great many interesting records in the list, but these of the Blue-winged Teal, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Barn Owl, Hawk Owl, Townsend's Solitaire, Starling and Swamp Sparrow are of special note. Of these the Starling record is the most worthy of mention, since it constitutes the second known locality in the state where this bird has been found. Three of the birds were seen by Alden Risser at Cambridge, on January 1. The other Minnesota Starling record was from the extreme southeastern part of the state, so the present record extends the Minnesota range of the Starling northward nearly one hundred and fifty miles. Undoubtedly Starlings will be seen in our state by many other observers during the coming year.

The observers who scouted wooded parts of the state report without exception that Ruffed Grouse were very common. Their abundance is coupled with that of the Snowshoe rabbits which were seen in considerable numbers in the region from Pine County and northward.

In the southern part of the state Juncos and Tree Sparrows especially the latter, were very abundant, and a few of each were seen in the northern section as well. Another half-hardy bird that was more than usually common was the Crow which was seen by several observers, but which was found by the hundreds near Madison, Minnesota, as reported by Mrs. C. E. Peterson, who also noted a Townsend's Solitaire on several occasions.

Such was the diligence of the various observers that there are but few birds which would normally have been expected which were not seen. However, it seems unusual that in a list which includes as many birds as the present one does, there are no Red-tailed Hawks, Saw-whet Owls, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Three-toed Woodpeckers, or Crossbills reported. Hardly a winter passes but that these birds are reported usually several times.

The present winter can, we believe, be considered one of our "Bohemian Waxwing winters", for these striking birds have been seen in greater numbers this season than is usual. Most of the records which have come to our attention were after the holiday season, but there were a number seen then also. The Waxwings have not appeared in the numbers which came the winter of 1926-'27, but several observers have reported flocks of several to 80 birds.

The observers who have contributed data to help swell the present list of birds are as follows:

W. J. Breckenridge, Bill Cummings, John C. Jones, Mrs. G. E. Peterson, Mr. A. C. Rosenwinkel, Mrs. Nellie O. Wilson, and the entire list of the observers on the Pine County trip, whose names will be enumerated elsewhere in this issue.

The species of birds noted will merely be enumerated with annotations only where they seem most desirable:

Mallard

4 at LaMoille, Dec. 28 (Jones).

15 at Pig's Eye, St. Paul, Dec. 31 (Risser).

Black Duck

3 at LaMoille, 1 at Pig's Eye.

Pintail

Pig's Eye, December 31 (Risser).

Blue-winged Teal

2 at LaMoille, Dec. 28 (Jones).

Lessor Scaup

1 at Hastings, Dec. 27 (Stoudt).

3 along North Shore, Dec. 20 (Jones).

Goldeneye

Reported from North Shore, LaMoille, St. Croix River.

Buffle-head

Hastings, Jan 2 (Jones and Risser).

American Merganser

1 along North Shore, Dec. 20 (Jones).

Red-breasted Merganser

3 along North Shore, Dec. 20 (Jones).

Goshawk

1 at Cloquet, Dec. 22 (Stoudt). 1 at Pine City, Dec. 20

Sharp-shinned Hawk

1 at Minneapolis, Dec. 29 (S. Durrant).

(Jones)

Cooper's Hawk

1 at LaMoille, Dec. 28 (Jones).

Red-shouldered Hawk

1 at LaMoille, Dec. 28 (Jones).

Rough-legged Hawk

3 on December 24, 31, and January 3 (Risser).

Bald Eagle

2 at Hastings, Jan. 2 (Jones and Risser).

Marsh Hawk

1 at Hastings, Jan. 2 (Jones and Risser).

Pigeon Hawk

1 at Minneapolis, Dec. 26 (Swanson).

Sparrow Hawk

1 at Shakopee, Dec. 27 (S. Stein).

Canada Spruce Grouse

along North Shore, (Breckenridge).

Ruffed Grouse

common in many localities.

Prairie Chicken

40 in Pine County, Dec. 22

Sharp-tailed Grouse

20 in Pine County, Dec. 21 and 22.

Bob-white

found in several localities.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Coot

1 at Pig's Eye, Dec. 31 (Risser).

Wilson's Snipe

a few at several localities

Herring Gull

common on North Shore.

Ring-billed Gull

3 at Mpls., Dec. 26, 150 at Hastings, Jan. 2 (Jones and Risser).

Mourning Dove

2 at LaMoille and Hastings (Jones and Risser)

Barn Owl

injured bird seen in barn near Red Wing (Cummings)

Screech Owl

Great Horned Owl

Snowy Owl

Ely, about Dec. 20 (Jones).

Hawk Owl

1 at Pine City, Dec. 20 (Jones).

Barred Owl

1 at LaMoille, Dec. 28 (Jones).

Belted Kingfisher

Four records, one in Pine County.

Pileated Woodpecker

Several records

Red-headed Woodpecker

Winona, Dec. 28; Duluth, about Dec. 20 (Jones).

Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Horned Lark

Montevideo, (Mrs. Nellie O. Wilson)

Canada Jay

Cloquet (Stoudt), and Pine County

Blue Jay

Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

Hudsonian Chickadee

Several

White-breasted Nuthatch

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Several

Brown Creeper

Robin

Minneapolis, (E. D. Swedenborg); Montevideo, (Mrs. Wilson).

Towson Solitaire

1 at Madison, seen several times (Mrs. C. E. Eterson).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Pine County and Shakopee

Bohemian Waxwing

75 at Pine City Dec. 21 (Jones).

Cedar Waxwing

Hastings, Jan. 2 (Jones and Risser).

Northern Shrike

Starling

3 at Cambridge, Jan 1 (Risser).

Red-winged Blackbird

several large flocks (40) in Minnesota Valley.

Rusty Blackbird

Several

Brewer's Blackbird

1 at Robbinsdale, Dec. 30 (Morse).

Bronzed Grackle

1 at Nichols, Jan. 3 (Swedenborg).

Cardinal

Several; one flock of 30 at Hastings, Jan. 2
(Jones and Risser)

Evening Grosbeak

Several

Purple Finch

Several flocks

Pine Grosbeak

2 at Cloquet, Dec. 22 (Stoudt).

Redpoll

Several records.

Goldfinch

Several

Slate-colored Junco

Several

Tree Sparrow

Abundant in southern half of state.

Swamp Sparrow

1 at Hastings, Jan 2. (Jones and Risser) collected.

Song Sparrow

1 at Ft. Snelling; 2 at Shakopee

Lapland Longspur

Several flocks.

THE M.B.C. EXPEDITION TO PINE COUNTY

Don Fischer

In the past it has been customary for the Minnesota Bird Club to sponsor an annual trip or two to various localities in the state. These outings enable the members to become better acquainted with each other and furnish wonderful opportunities for making interesting ornithological observations; in other words, we have a fine time.

Very early in the morning of the 21st of December nine of us set out for Pine County, where we were to stay at a cabin of Mr. Creig, the local gamewarden. Arrangements had been made previously by Alden Risser, members participating were Alden Carpenter, Charles Evans, Donald and Leander Fischer, Marius Morse, Robert Montgomery, Alden Risser, Gustav Swanson and Ralph Woolsey.

Two days were spent in exploring the east-central portion of Pine County, and on December 23rd, we journeyed back to the Twin City region, stopping at many places along the way for a short time. A total of 19 species were seen in Pine County, to which 6 more were added on the homeward trip. The birds seen during our two day stay in the North Woods were:

<u>Ruffed Grouse</u>	- - - - -	45
<u>Prairie Chicken</u>	- - - - -	40
<u>Sharp-tailed Grouse</u>	- - - - -	20
<u>Great Horned Owl</u>	- - - - -	1
<u>Belted Kingfisher</u>	- - - - -	1 near open St. Croix river
<u>Pileated Woodpecker</u>	- - - - -	3
<u>Hairy Woodpecker</u>	- - - - -	Several
<u>Downy Woodpecker</u>	- - - - -	Several
<u>Canada Jay</u>	- - - - -	1
<u>Blue Jay</u>	- - - - -	Several
<u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>	- - - - -	40 plus
<u>Hudsonian Chickadee</u>	- - - - -	1
<u>White-breasted Nuthatch</u>	- - - - -	3
<u>Brown Creeper</u>	- - - - -	2
<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet</u>	- - - - -	1
<u>Northern Shrike</u>	- - - - -	1
<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	- - - - -	3
<u>Redpoll</u>	- - - - -	30
<u>Lapland Longspur</u>	- - - - -	16

Birds are not nearly so numerous in the Canadian zone as they are in the other faunal areas of the state; yet, we made a creditable showing for the time we were afield, in spite of rainy weather. None of us will soon forget the hospitality of the Creigs, the fine meals and the pleasant evenings around the fire.

Shakopee, Minnesota

GENERAL NOTES

When the Birds Come to You
A Winter Feeding Station

The intensely cold weather and the heavy snows of the past weeks have undoubtedly kept our winter birds hard pressed for food. With this situation in mind I have tried to provide sustenance for the birds around my home in Robbinsdale. At present there are seven species that visit my feeding station daily.

Besides the common nuthatches, chickadees, and Downy Woodpeckers I have succeeded in attracting the comparatively shy Hairy Woodpecker, and the suspicious Blue Jays. A week ago, I made my first attempts to attract pheasants. I cleared a small area at the edge of the lawn, on which I scattered cracked corn. In a few hours it had all been eaten, but by the pestiferous English Sparrows. Then I conceived the idea of suspending corn on the cob from bushes and sticks. The sparrows were at a loss as to how to eat the corn, but in a few days the pheasants discovered the food, and they have come to remain until they have eaten their fill. I have seen as many as 5 or 6 pheasants feeding at a time.

My most welcome bird visitants, however, were a pair of Cardinals, which appeared on the scene January 17th. Since that date they have come daily to partake of corn, bread, and sunflower seeds. Not until 2 weeks after their first appearance, however, did the red birds finally discover the food on the window sill. What eaters they are! The male and the female will come separately to sit on the feed tray for five minutes at a time and fairly gorge themselves with choice morsels of fresh food. And all the time they are being watched closely from within by interested eyes.

Marius Morse, Robbinsdale

Some Winter Birds At Hastings

The following birds have been seen at Hastings during the month of December:

- a flock of 100 Lapland Longspurs on the 5th
- a female White-winged Scoter in the Mississippi River on the 6th.
- a flock of about 80 Bohemian Waxwings and four Bald Eagles, one adult and three in immature plumage flying over the bottomlands of the Mississippi, were all seen on the 12th;
- a male Lesser Scaup and a Northern Shrike on the 27th.

At Cloquet, Minnesota on December 22nd, two Pine Grosbeaks and one Goshawk were seen.

Jerome Stoudt, Hastings

Winter Bird Notes From Madison

During December I have been feeding the birds sunflower seeds in a 6 x 9 inch feeding tray pushed through a slot in the storm window, and suet in a suet-stick. The sunflower seeds attracted chickadees, nuthatches, and English Sparrows; and Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers come to the suet. Crows are plentiful and sit about the trees, bushes, and on the ground in our yards looking for anything edible that may be thrown out. Visitors to our city are surprised to find them so fearless and inquire, "What kind of crows are these?" Flocks of several hundred are seen on mild days in nearby fields.

On December 16th when the ground was covered with snow 7 Bohemian Waxwings came to my yard and ate asparagus berries. Snow melting on the roof of the house furnished a shallow puddle of water on the ice by the sidewalk. All of the waxwings decided to take a dip, but one who proved himself master of the flock stood his ground and if any others ventured near he opened his mouth very wide and hissed. In response to this the others would hiss showing the red linings of their mouths and throats. This was the only resentment they showed when they were denied a dip in the cold water. The "officer of the day" finally took a few passes at the water on the bathing beach. After a few breast feathers were wet he gave a command and they all flew away.

On January 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. as a Downy Woodpecker looked out of the hole in a boxelder tree in the back yard, a strange all gray bird resembling a flycatcher sat on a nearby limb. He was intensely interested in some holly branches I had placed by my doorside. Desiring a closeup I walked into the porch to observe him partaking of the feast. He flew away but returned to another tree and was paged loudly by 3 chickadees. A few more berries and he departed. The bird, a Townsend Solitaire, was identified with the help of the picture in Taverner's "Birds of Western Canada".

February 2nd, 4:00 p.m. The solitaire is back in my yard on the snow hastily picking up an asparagus berry he had dropped. Frightened he flew across the street. At 5:00 p.m. he returned and ate holly berries (which had come from Yorktown, Virginia). I had thrown out a few branches to attract him in case he should come back. The thermometer stood at 6 above zero.

Mrs. C. E. Peterson
Madison, Minnesota

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At the last four regular meetings the club has been favored with three talks, by Mr. William Kilgore, Mr. D. Lange, and Mrs. Stanely Stein, respectively, and with a series of moving pictures of wild-life in Alaska. It may be noted that the attendance at these meetings has been very gratifying.

It was decided at the May meeting that Saturday and Sunday, May 14th and 15th, be reserved as field census days, and that every member should make a special effort to spend a large part of each of these days in the field. At the June meeting all of these records will be compiled.

All members are urged to keep their records of nests found in Minnesota during 1932 in such shape that they may be compiled in the fall into a combined nesting record. Present indications point to the possibility of a larger nesting record than ever before.

For the illustrations in this issue we are indebted to Mr. Sam Grimes, who did the photo-engraving. Stanely Stein is to be congratulated upon the excellence of his unusual owl picture.

GREAT HORNED OWL NESTS THAT I HAVE SEEN

Stanley F. Stein

For the past five years I have spent a considerable amount of my time searching for nests of Great Horned Owls. My chief purpose in searching for the nests was to find one that would be suitable for obtaining a series of pictures of both young and adult birds. Of course the fact that the Great Horned Owl is the largest and seemingly the most wary of our owls, and according to some writers, occasionally quite ferocious, added considerably to the interest of the undertaking.

I believe I am correct in saying that the season of the year has much to do with the difficulties of owl nest hunting. Early in the season there are cold weather, wet feet, colds, and March storms to tax the ardor of even the most intrepid of owl hunters. Even more important is the fact that during the incubation period the adult owl leaves long before the searcher comes within sight of the nest; therefore the only recourse is to climb to each and every likely looking nest, unless one happens to be out just after fresh snow, when it is quite certain that only the nests not covered with snow are worth examining. Later in the season, when small young are in the nest, the adult bird usually stays on the nest and of course is quite conspicuous.

The first two seasons that I spent in searching for Great Horned Owl nests were unsuccessful. Although I explored all the apparently suitable territory within a radius of twelve miles, not one nest was located. Later thought, I found that the trouble lay in the fact that I was searching in the wrong sort of country. I had been examining all the dense woods of which I knew without taking into consideration the important fact that as a usual thing Great Horned Owls nest near a marsh. Dense woods are not a necessity. The Great Horned Owl often nests in small and sparse patches of woods provided that there are large trees, and that the location is near a marsh and quite secluded. Owls do not as a usual thing nest in woods that are often visited by man.

It seems queer that the first nest that it was my good fortune to see was quite unusual. It was located in a gully cut out by running water. The nest was located by two friends who were searching for nests of Lark Sparrows in the river bluffs north of Shakopee. They were walking along the upper edge of the gully, when a Great Horned Owl flushed from under the bank just beneath them. They investigated and found the nest, containing a well-developed young bird, on a small ledge under a clump of overhanging roots near the top of the gully. I photographed the young bird, but the location was

such that it was impossible even to attempt to photograph the adult at the nest.

Last spring, while walking along the river bank just west of Shakopee, I happened to glance across the river and noticed a stick nest that appeared to have something on it. With my binoculars I was able to identify the "something" as an adult Great Horned Owl. It seemed to be watching my every movement. In order to cross to that side, it was necessary to walk about a mile and a half farther up the river. When I finally arrived at the nest, the owl had left. It was not until almost a week later that I was able to climb to the nest. At that time it contained two very small young. Possibly, when I first noticed the nest, there were eggs in it. This nest was located in a large elm, and about forty feet from the ground. It was impossible to set up a camera in such a position that a good picture could be obtained. The tree was located about three hundred feet from the river, and just a short distance from a marsh. In the nest we found evidence that the birds had been feeding on rabbits, pheasants, coot, blackbirds, and mice.

On the third of May a friend and I located another nest of owls. This nest was also of the unusual type. The nest was about twenty feet from the ground in a large dead tree. The owls had chosen a hollow from which the front had been broken leaving a shelf enclosed on three sides and the top. At the time we found it, the nest contained two young approximately half grown. Another tree about ten feet from the nest offered excellent opportunity for setting up a camera, but the opening to the nest faced the north and so offered extremely poor lighting conditions.

This year as usual I started about the last of February to look for nests. Along the river west of Shakopee I observed a Great Horned Owl sitting near the top of a large cottonwood. As soon as I approached closer the owl left. I stopped and waited to see what the bird would do. After a short time the owl returned and alighted in almost the same position as that in which I had first noticed it, and began a desultory hooting. Of course this indicated that a nest was nearby. With my glasses I examined, I believe, each and every likely looking nest but in no instance did I note any that showed any signs of being occupied.

A few weeks later three of us spent an entire afternoon searching for the nest. We climbed to stick nests and up stubs, and carefully examined all the inaccessible nesting sites with a twenty power telescope but no nest could be found. During the entire time the one owl occupied its usual position, and carried on its hooting - sometimes it seemed quite derisive. It should be noted that on no occasion did we see the second owl.

On March 25 I again searched for the nest, and this time I found it. The adult stayed on the nest, and of course was very easy to see. It was annoying to find the nest located in a place which I had examined at least a dozen times with my glass, but did not consider it worth examining more closely. The owls had selected a flat place about eighteen inches in diameter formed by the junction of two limbs with the main trunk, which at that point measured about twenty inches across. The nest proper consisted of a small amount of dry leaves and brush. In the nest we found the remains of two house rats, one rabbit, and one pheasant.

The nest offered excellent opportunity for pictures if the photographer had the proper equipment. About fifty feet from the nest was a large tree in which it would have been an easy matter to construct a blind on a level with the nest. From that position the photographer would have had an excellent view of the nest. Of course I was extremely sorry that my lense equipment did not allow of any such long range work.

On April 9 I was spending the day, together with two friends, in searching for the nest of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. I knew of a certain well-built stick nest, that two years ago had contained the family of a Cooper's Hawk, and although it was not located in the sort of locality that is usually preferred by Red-tailed Hawks we thought that it would bear investigation. As we approached the nest I noticed that it appeared to be covered over with dead leaves, but upon closer investigation we found that a Great Horned Owl was on the nest. The bird did not leave until we threw a club at it. We could then hear the cries of small owls. When the nest was examined more closely a few days later, it was found to contain the two young which we had heard calling. In this nest we found one house rat, part of a rabbit, and the remains of a pheasant.

This nest was situated near the top of a black ash tree, and about thirty feet from the ground. About ten feet to the east was another black ash somewhat larger and higher than the one in which the nest was located. It was possible to place a camera in this tree so that it would be within six or seven feet of the nest. The tree was not large enough to allow the construction of a blind.

I decided that I would try for pictures by fastening my camera in the tree, and operating it from the ground. Such a method, while not nearly as satisfactory as a blind, enables one occasionally to obtain fairly presentable pictures. In order to allow the owls to become accustomed to the presence of the cameras I placed a black box about the size of the camera in the position that the camera would occupy. I allowed

the box to remain in the tree for a week before I proceeded with the arrangements. On April 17th I put up a rope ladder in such a position that I could climb directly to the camera without the need of climbing part way on the tree (Fig. 1). On the ground about fifty feet from the tree I set up a blind.

About daylight the following morning I placed my camera in the tree and retired to my blind to await results. During the entire time that I had been adjusting the camera I had failed to note the presence of the adult owls. Most likely they were away hunting a breakfast for the youngsters. I hoped that I would be able to obtain a picture of them bringing food, but I had no such luck.

At about 7:30 an owl hooted in the woods just behind the blind. It was the first indication that the birds were in the vicinity. Later a White-breasted Nuthatch visited the nest. After examining the tree quite thoroughly it paid a visit to the young owls. It crept over the nest and the young. It was very comical to watch the young birds, now able to walk, trying to capture the nuthatch. I wondered what the adult bird thought of the incident. It is opportunities for pictures such as this that really prove the value of working from a blind. I couldn't take the picture because it would then be necessary for me to climb the tree to replace the film, and of course frighten the adult owl.

About 8:00 o' clock a series of cat-like calls came from the woods. Evidently the other owl had appeared on the scene. A few minutes later, while I was writing notes, I heard a swish of wings, and looking up I saw the adult owl on a limb near the nest but out of range of the camera. It remained there for a few moments seeming to survey the situation; apparently dissatisfied it left without offering an opportunity for pictures.

A few moments later an owl again alighted on the same limb. I do not know whether it was the same owl or its mate. This owl also spent a few moments in looking for danger, and apparently satisfied that everything was safe, it flew to the nest and alighted on the edge. Just as it turned to look at the camera I pulled the camera to obtain the picture shown (Fig. 2). My heart was in my mouth all the time that the bird was on the nest. It was, I believe, the most thrilling moment that I have ever experienced. The thrill itself was well worth all the trouble, to say nothing of the value of the picture which it was my good fortune to obtain. Unfortunately the owl was frightened at the click of the camera shutter, and refused to return to the nest. I remained in the blind until 12:30, but the owls did not return. Just before I left, a crow

flew through the woods, and apparently intended to alight on the nest, but two deep hoots from the woods changed its mind.

Although I considered the picture that I had obtained well worth the trouble entailed in the taking, I believe the method I employed is not suitable for the photography of birds as wary as the Great Horned Owl. It is pleasing to dream of the pictures I might have obtained if I had been concealed in a blind at a level with the nest, with a camera at hand so that I could operate it without disturbing the birds.

It will be a long time before I forget the first occasion when I watched a Great Horned Owl at its nest, the bird totally unaware that anyone was near.

--- Shakopee, Minnesota

OBSERVING A FLOCK OF PELICANS

Burnice N. Ebel

Being an amateur in the bird game my knowledge is far from complete. In spite of this fact I have had some wonderful observations.

My favorite hobby has been horse back riding, and having my own horse I do plenty of it. This spring I have taken to studying birds when on my rides, and I find it easier to approach the birds that way than on foot. The afternoon of April 26th I was fortunate enough to see about 25 pelicans in flight. This is how it happened.

Brownie (my horse) and I decided to take a little trip to see what the birds were about. The wind was blowing raw and cold from the north-east, and it seemed to be a poor day for bird study. Nevertheless, we hadn't gone far when a peculiar squawk from the sky attracted my attention. The first thing I thought of when I looked up was a squadron of miniature planes. To say that I was excited is expressing it mildly. Taking my glasses from the case I scrambled off Brownie.

Not having the slightest idea what I was looking at I watched those great birds soar and circle above me not more than three hundred feet up. They seemed to know they were being watched, for they did their best to show me their skill in flying. They did almost everything but a tail spin. They seemed to take especial delight in banking against the wind without a movement of the wing. As the sun shone full upon

them I had a splendid view of the upper side of the bird. The tail was short, the wings were tipped with black, and since there were no feet extending out behind the bird I assumed it was short-legged. The neck looked to be much too long for the body, but I later learned that part of this was the extended beak of the bird.

The birds' sailing ability was what fascinated me most. It seemed no effort at all. Only a slow graceful flap of the wing and the bird could tilt this way and that at a great speed. After a ten minute performance the flock made a final circle and their silvery bodies were soon lost in the sky. Quite puzzled as to the identity of these birds Brownie and I continued to our destination, which was the river.

As I rode along, a number of small birds, such as the Vesper Sparrow, Junco, Horned Lark, and Tree Sparrow would fly back and forth before me. A couple of Crows were doing their best to make it unpleasant for a Marsh Hawk as he sailed through the air. A Meadowlark was my companion for a mile or so, making short stops on each fence post.

Eventually we arrived at the river. Some distance ahead, flying not more than thirty feet above the ground, were four or five great birds, like those I had seen earlier in the day. A closer look assured me that they were the same. This time their flight was a slow rhythmic flap of the wings. In a more business-like manner they circled around as if on the lookout for any intruder. It was quite impossible for me to follow them further, so turning back to Brownie I suggested that we call it a lucky day and go home to start our search for a proper name for these birds. He promptly agreed with me.

--- Madison, Minnesota

Mrs. Nellie O. Wilson writes that the Bohemian Waxwings have been at Montevideo from before Christmas until April. The last bird was seen April 18th. On January 22nd a flock of 60 birds was seen. This flock afterwards was divided into several small groups which stayed in and around Montevideo almost all winter.

A DAPPER NUTHATCH

Fine feathers do make fine birds. This was impressed upon me when an aristocratic nuthatch came to winter in our vicinity.

His feathered suit was perfect, and the colors were perfect for a winter visitor. A well fitted black cap was smart and becoming to one wearing a bluish gray coat and snow white vest and trousers.

Industrious and active at all times, he outwitted the chickadee in searching for food. The hanging suet stick thrills one by attracting chickadees in a few minutes, but to my surprise Mr. Nuthatch discovered the feast and was feeding as I turned about to observe my first winter boarder. A tray of sunflower seeds was visited first by the trim fellow. One chickadee (marked by a narrow curved tail) has wintered with us several years, and is familiar with our feeding. But for him the nuthatch won first place.

These cold and snappy winter mornings voice few bird notes. Crows cawing, cheeps of the English Sparrow, chickadees whistling, yanks of the nuthatch, and the jay calling his name completes the repertoire.

This winter season a new call came on the air regularly about 8:00 a.m. I can best describe it as a series of 6 or 8 guttural notes in quick succession resembling one of the calls of the flicker. Interest grew until I donned furs and went forth with my binoculars to stage a bird hunt. The distance and direction of the source of the call brought me to a group of evergreens ideal for bird protection, which I scanned carefully with no result. Walking on among linden, elm, and maple trees I noticed two nuthatches alighting on the trunk of a tree some distance away. They traveled up and down searching for food, but stopped to scrutinize me.

I thought then a charming pair, then as if surmising my errand one of them uttered this same series of guttural notes. To make certain I turned my glasses on him and I could see his long bill in motion. At once I recognized my Dapper Nuthatch.

Mrs. C. E. Peterson
Madison, Minnesota

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PUBLICATIONS

Presumably all readers of The FLICKER are familiar with the fact that Dr. Robert's book, "The Birds of Minnesota" will be available about June 1st. Presumably also everyone interested at all in Minnesota ornithology will secure a copy immediately, so it will not be necessary to describe the book here. Anyone who has not received a prospectus of the book may do so by addressing the University of Minnesota Press. The two volumes on "The Birds of Minnesota" are available through this agency at the price of \$6.00.

Suffice is to say that a new high standard in state bird books has been reached, both in the execution of the color plates, of which there are 92, and in the text itself. The serious student, not only of Minnesota birds but of birds anywhere in the United States, will find many things in "The Birds of Minnesota" which are not available in other books.

It has not been the custom for state bird books to include keys to the species treated, but Dr. Roberts has spent much time in preparing excellent workable keys to all Minnesota species. These are gathered together in one section so that they will not be in the way when one is searching for field marks or biography, or notes on food, or any other of the points which are taken up in the body of the book. The keys will make, "The Birds of Minnesota" especially useful to bird classes in Minnesota and all nearby states.

No person interested in wild life in Minnesota can afford to be without this book. It is safe to predict that its appearance will result in an increased interest in birds by the people of our state.

"The Mammals of Minnesota", is a fine 84 page booklet by Thaddeus Suber of the Game and Fish Department, St. Paul. It is distributed free of charge by this department.

The publication contains a chapter by Dr. T. S. Roberts on the vanished animals of the state. Following this are several introductory chapters treating of the general groups of mammals of our state. The latter portion is devoted to an annotated list of all mammals found in Minnesota. The whole paper is nicely illustrated with half-tone, largely from pictures by Mr. Suber, and with drawings by Mr. Breckenridge.

G. S.

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The September meeting was opened by the election of a new president, Gustav Swanson, to succeed Donald Fischer, whose residence is no longer in Minnesota. Alden Risser was then elected to succeed Gustav Swanson as editor. Considerable time was spent in making plans for the club's trip to Sturgeon Lake, details of which may be found elsewhere in this number. The remainder of the meeting was given over to the exchange of summer bird notes.

October, welcome to Minnesota! What nature lover is not awed by that beautiful month of autumn colors, when a woodland walk thru the rustling leaves discloses here and there a happy little group of Juncos and White-throats, almost human in their friendliness and interest in life? Perhaps a stately Harris, now and then a jolly Fox Sparrow further stirs our admiration and increases our joy of nature's handiwork. Sometimes we wonder; again we sit down on the crisp, brown leaves and absorb that thrilling but peaceful joy that is explained only by those who have truly learned to love nature through association with her.

THE 1932 NESTING SEASON

Compiled by Alden Risser

The custom of publishing the nest-finding activities of the members of the Minnesota Bird Club in the FLICKER was inaugurated by S. A. Grimes in 1929, and has been followed ever since. This is my excuse for the following 15 pages.

The list of nests was compiled from the reports of 23 observers, 16 of whom sent in complete lists. We are very grateful to all who cooperated, but will not give their names here, for they appear in the body of the list with their respective records. The full name is given the first time it appears in the list.

The nesting records provided by Mr. Swanson from the northern part of the state were made while he was doing field work in the interests of the University Museum of Natural History, and they are used with the kind permission of Dr. Roberts, the director. We are especially grateful for the use of these notes, for they contain the first Minnesota breeding records of the Baldpate and Piping Plover as well as many other interesting records.

It is obviously impossible to record all the nests found, when, for instance, 33 Mourning Doves' nests were reported; so the following plan is used. When several nests of a species were found, only the first and last are given, except where there is some interesting observation made at a different nest. Unfinished nests, uninvestigated nests, North Dakota nests, old birds carrying food, and young birds out of the nest are recorded only when but one or no occupied Minnesota nests were found. All reports are from the Twin City - Robbinsdale - Shakopee region unless otherwise stated.

Due to the hearty cooperation of the 23 observers, the following nesting list is the largest yet put forth by the Minnesota Bird Club. It includes 136 species, of which 135 were found breeding in Minnesota. Nests of 109 species were seen, the other 25 being records of adults carrying food, or of young birds out of the nest.

LOON: Young Loons about 5 days old were seen by Marius Morse at Itasca Park, July 15. Gustav Swanson found young birds 3/4ths grown on July 23 at Lake of the Woods.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: A nest with 6 eggs was found on May 14 (Morse). The last nest held 8 eggs on June 26, and was seen by Swanson at Ericsburg.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Gustav Swanson reports the only Cormorant nests, having found 20 nests at Cormorant Rock, Lake of the Woods, on July 23. Three nests contained four eggs; 5 had 3 eggs; and two had one egg.

GREAT BLUE HERON: A number of heronries of this species were found, but the contents of the nests were determined only when the young birds were in the nest, first on June 12 at Lake Minnetonka (Ralph Eisele & Walter Downey), and last on July 12th at Rainy Lake, the young being nearly full-grown in the latter colony (Swanson).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: A heronry of this species two miles north of St. Paul was visited by several members, eggs numbering 4 & 5 to a set being seen first on May 8 (John Dobie).

AMERICAN BITTERN: A nest with four eggs was found by the writer in Polk County, June 20th.

LEAST BITTERN: The only nest of this eccentric bird is reported from Swan Lake, June 16th (Dobie).

MALLARD: Two Mallards' nests were found, one on May 11th with 10 eggs (Swanson), and the other on June 4th with 8 eggs (Leander Fischer).

BALDPATE: On July 8 at Ericsburg, Gustav Swanson saw a female Baldpate with 12 downy young, constituting the first positive breeding record of this duck for Minnesota.

PINTAIL: A nest with 8 eggs, found at Swan Lake, June 13, by John Dobie, is the only one reported. The same observer saw downy young 3 days later.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: Two nests of this little duck were found, one with 14 eggs at Swan Lake on May 28 (Dobie), and the other with 5 eggs on May 30 (Swanson).

SHOVELLER: The only spoonbill's nest was found west of Fargo, N. D. by Ralph Woolsey. He found it with 11 eggs on May 29. Small downy young were also seen.

WOOD DUCK: Morse reports a female with a brood of 10 young, approximately 10 days old, at Itasca Park on July 4th.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE: A brood of 6 young Whistlers was seen by Swanson at Ericsburg, June 16.

RUDDY DUCK: On June 17, as we were walking thru a slough in Polk County, Charles Evans called me over to see a large nest that he had found. It was built of coarse reeds,

and the 7 hugh eggs were completely covered. 3 days later I revisited the nest, hoping to see the bird leave it. This did not happen, but while I was measuring the eggs, the female came splashing across an open space of water, and a minute later appeared in full view a few feet in front of me, apparently trying to lure me away from the nest. It had not occurred to us that the nest belonged to as small a duck as the Ruddy on account of the immense eggs. The eggs of a Ruddy Duck are as large as those of any other duck that nests in Minnesota with the exception of the American Merganser.

REDHEAD: Dobie found the only Redhead's nest of the season at Swan Lake on June 13, with 7 eggs. Swanson saw young birds on Thief Lake that were still unable to fly on August 10. The Redhead was omitted from its proper place in the list, after the Wood Duck, through an error.

HOODED MERGANSER: Swanson found a female with a brood of 5 downy young at Ericsburg, June 16.

AMERICAN MERGANSER: Three broods of young Goosanders were found, all by Mr. Swanson. In all cases they were about 3/4ths grown. The first 2, consisting of 15 & 21 young, were seen at Rainy Lake, July 10. Going after bigger and better broods, he found the third on July 23 at Lake of the Woods, consisting of a female with 26 young.

COOPER'S HAWK: Two nests of this avivore were found, both by Evans. The first was found May 1, when it contained 3 eggs. There were 4 eggs when Dobie photographed the nest a week later. The other nest also had 4 eggs when it was found on May 29, at Brainerd.

RED-TAILED HAWK: Five nests of this hawk were found, the first on April 15, with 2 eggs (Stanley Stein), and the last on May 12 by W. J. Breckenridge, also with 2 eggs. Incidentally, the other 3 were also found by Mr. Breckenridge, all 4 of his nests being within one square mile.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Two nests of this innocent species were found, one with 2 small downy young at Brainerd, June 25 (Evans), and the other with 3 young about 1/2 grown at Williams on July 27 (Swanson).

BALD EAGLE: Morse reports the only eagle nest. It was found at Itasca Park and contained 3 young nearly fledged eaglets on July 1.

MARSH HAWK: Five nests of this hawk were found, all by Breckenridge, and all on the same square mile as the 4 Red-tails* nests. The earliest was found on May 13, when it had

4 eggs. It was a fresh set, for a fifth egg was deposited subsequently. The last nest was found on May 25, when it held 6 eggs.

OSPREY: 3 nests were located, all with young birds, the first at Deer River by Frank Zoubek in the last week of June, and the latest at Lake of the Woods by Gustav Swanson on August 26. The latter nest was in a live spruce, a very unusual location for this bird, which generally nests in dead trees.

SPARROW HAWK: Leadner Fischer saw a Sparrow Hawk at its nest on May 22. He did not determine the contents of the nest.

RUFFED GROUSE: 2 nests of this noble game bird were found; one by John Huseby at Center City, June 5. This nest contained 11 eggs. The other one had 12 eggs, and was found by Robert Nicel at Brainerd, May 22. Many broods of young Grouse were seen; as many as 10 in one day along the Gunflint Trail (Swedenborg).

PRAIRIE CHICKEN: No occupied nest was found, but Evans and Risser noticed a nest full of recently deserted broken egg shells and 2 unhatched eggs on June 19 in Polk County.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE: A female with 8 small downy young was seen at Ericsburg, June 17 (Swanson).

BOB-WHITE: A brood of young Quail about 1/3rd grown was seen August 20 (Swedenborg).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT: 5 nests of this noisy bird were found. The earliest one contained the immense number of 23 eggs, and was found May 1 (Swedenborg). The latest was found June 11 with 10 eggs (the writer).

VIRGINIA RAIL: Dobie found the first nest, May 22. It harbored 7 eggs. The last one was found on June 11 with 9 eggs, most of which were pipped (the writer).

SORA: On June 11 I found a rail's nest with 13 eggs, but not being an oologist, I did not know the species to which it belonged until Walter Downey and Ralph Eisele flushed a Sora from the nest a few days later.

FLORIDA GALLINULE: 2 nests were found, both on May 29. One had 5 eggs, and was seen by John Dobie at Swan Lake, while the other had 10 eggs, and was found by S. Stein.

GOOT: Many mudhen's nests were found, the first on May 22 with 2 eggs (Eisele and Downey), and the last on June 19 with 9 eggs, seen by Evans and Risser in Polk County.

PIPING PLOVER: Gustav Swanson established the first Minnesota breeding record of this bird when he found a nesting colony on Curry Island, Lake of the Woods, on July 21. There were many young birds and a nest with 2 eggs, one of which hatched the following day.

KILLDEER: No Killdeer nests were found until May 11, when 2 were observed, both with 4 eggs, one by S. Stein, and the other by Dobie. The eggs in the former nest were hatching. The last set was found by the writer on June 24, and contained 2 fresh eggs, an incomplete set.

WOODCOCK: A Woodcock's nest was found at Fort Snelling by Dr. Dawson of the Zoology Department. The location was marked, and the nest was visited and photographed many times by many people in the next three weeks. The patience of the bird was certainly put to a hard test, but it did not fail. Altho one rainy day Donald Fischer found the eggs wet and cold, and one of them cracked, the bird returned to the nest, and on May 13 all 4 eggs hatched. The first record I have of the nest being seen is on May 1, when it was visited by Swanson and Risser.

UPLAND PLOVER: W. J. Breckenridge found the only nest of this fine prairie bird on May 21, when it held 4 eggs. Mrs. C. E. Peterson reports downy young on June 24 at Madison, and larger young on later dates.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Only 2 nests of this common bird were found. I saw one with 4 eggs, as well as downy young, on June 13, and Swanson found one with 4 eggs at Ericsburg, June 28.

WESTERN WILLET: On June 24 Mrs. C. E. Peterson and Mrs. N. O. Wilson saw a pair of Willets with one downy chick at Appleton. Except for the observation of young Willets that were full grown at the same place last year, this appears to be the first breeding record of the Willet in Minnesota for the 20th century.

MARbled GODWIT: A downy chick was seen on June 18, and a nest with 3 eggs on the following day by Evans & Risser in Polk County. Details of these findings will appear in the next number of the FLICKER.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 3 beautiful downy young phalaropes, not more than a day or two old, were found in Polk County, June 16, due to the strategic maneuvering of Charles Evans.

HERRING GULL: On July 12 at Anchor Islands in Rainy Lake, Swanson found a colony of about 150 nests of this species. Some had eggs (1 to 3), but in most the young had hatched and were running about. Some young were already on

the wing. On July 8th near Two Harbors, Mr. Swedenborg found one downy young and two young about 1/3rd grown.

FORSTER'S TERN: The only nest of this western bird was found at Swan Lake, May 28th, with 3 eggs (Dobie).

COMMON TERN: A large nesting colony was found at Lake of the Woods, July 20th (Swanson). Almost all the nests had 3 eggs, and some young had hatched, while others were on the wing. Another colony was seen by John Huseby at Mille Lacs Lake on August 3rd. There were sets of 1 and 2 eggs and young of all ages.

BLACK TERN: 17 nests of the Black Tern were found, the first on May 28 with 3 eggs (Dobie at Swan Lake), and the last on June 17 with 2 and 3 eggs (Evans & Rissor in Polk Co.)

MOURNING DOVE: 33 nests of this bird were found. All contained 1 or 2 eggs or young except a very unusual set of 4 eggs found by Ralph Woolsey, May 4. The first and last sets of eggs were both found by Stanley Stein, May 1st and September 12th respectively. The last date is later than any date for eggs in Dr. Roberts', Birds of Minnesota.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: The first nesting date for this peroneal bird is June 5, on which day Breckenridge found two nests with 1 egg each, and Swedenborg found one with 6 eggs. The last nest was found on July 29th with 3 eggs which, however were apparently deserted (Morso).

SCREECH OWL: The only nest of this little creature was found by Carl Olson on May 1st, when it contained downy young not more than 3 days old.

GREAT HORNED OWL: The earliest nest of this villainous hooter was found on March 25th by Stanley & Ernest Stein and Leander Fischer. There were 2 small young in it. The latest was seen May 1st at which time the young were 3/4ths grown (Breckenridge).

BURROWING OWL: On July 14th Mrs. Peterson saw young Burrowing Owls in a pasture calling for food. This was at Madison.

BARRED OWL: On July 11th I ran across a family of Barred Owls at Sturgeon Lake. The young were full grown.

LONG-EARED OWL: Woolsey reports the only nest of this species. He found it on June 5th near Frazee, and it contained 3 young about 3 weeks old and 1 addled egg.

NIGHTHAWK: Two nests of this crepuscular bird were found, both with 2 eggs. One was found by Huseby on June 13th, and the other by Breckenridge on June 23rd.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: A nest with 5 eggs was found at Ericsburg, July 5th (Swanson). It was unique in being constructed on the wall of an abandoned cabin rather than the chimney. Bowney & Eisele report Swifts gathering twigs on June 1st.

BELTED KINGFISHER: S. Stein found a Kingfisher's nest with 4 eggs on May 6. Mrs. Wilson observed another feeding young in the nest at Montevideo, July 1st.

FLICKER: Mrs. Wilson reports a Flicker excavating on April 29, and the nest being completed May 3. Nests with young Flickers were found by several observers, the latest being July 4 (Evans).

PILEATED WOODPECKER: Mr. Swanson examined a full grown but juvenal Pileated Woodpecker on August 27th at Lake of the Woods.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: The first occupied nest of this handsome woodpecker was seen May 28th (S. Stein and L. Fisher), while the latest was seen August 28th and contained vociferous young (Evans).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: On May 11th Swanson saw a Sapsucker excavating at Frontenac. The latest nest was seen at Gunflint Lake, July 9th, with large young (Swedenborg).

HAIRY WOODPECKER: The earliest nest was found on May 18th (A. C. Rosenwinkel), and the latest on July 7th at Itasca Park (Morse). They both contained young, and in the latter nest the young were leaving.

DOWNY WOODPECKER: Ralph Eisele & Walter Downey spare us the disgrace of omitting this common bird from the list by their record of a nest full of young birds found on June 3rd.

KINGBIRD: The first nest of this pugnacious flycatcher was found on May 28th with 4 eggs (Dobie). The latest date is July 14th, when a nest with 3 eggs was seen at Sturgeon Lake (the writer).

ARKANSAS KINGBIRD: The first nest was seen May 28th at Madison by Mrs. Peterson. The contents was not determined. The last was seen at Breckenridge, June 23rd, when it held three eggs (Woolsey).

CRESTED FLYCATCHER: Ralph Woolsey investigated a nest of this bird near Frazee on June 5th and found it to contain 2 eggs, as well as the proverbial snakeskin. Mrs. Wilson watched young birds being fed in the nest at Montevideo, on July 2nd.

PHOEBE: Nineteen Phoebe nests were found, the first by Stanley Stein on April 20, when it had 4 eggs. The latest was found on July 22 with 3 large young (Swedenborg). The last nest with eggs was seen on July 13 by W. J. Breckenridge in a bootleg cellar. Tsk. Tsk.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: A nest with 4 eggs was found at Swan Lake, May 28 (Dobie). Swedenborg found the latest nest, which housed large young on July 17. The following interesting quotations is from the pen of Ralph Woolsey, from Fargo, N.D. "Another nest of the Least was unexpectedly discovered on June 28. The excited cries of the little flycatcher caused me to look upward, where I beheld a pestiferous English Sparrow calmly pecking holes in the eggs of the Least, who was trying her best to chase the intruder away. I did considerable shouting and throwing of debris before the villain left. Then the Flycatcher coolly removed the broken eggs from the nest, cleaned it out, and settled herself in it for better or for worse. The nest was examined the next day, but the birds had apparently been visited again, for it was deserted and sadly in disrepair."

WOOD PEWEE: Mrs. N. O. Wilson reports an incubating Pewee at Montevideo on June 27th. The young were being fed in the nest on July 6th.

HORNED LARK: No nests of this early breeding bird were found until May 29, when Downey found a nest at Trail with one young. The last was seen June 24 with 2 eggs by the writer. Mrs. Wilson tells of a nest which contained young which were hatching on June 19. On this and the following day there was a tournament at the golf course on which this nest was built. The nest was on the fairway right in front of the 9th green, and the crowds of people walked past both days, the young birds survived, and left the nest June 27th.

TREE SWALLOW: The earliest nests were found on May 22, one with 3 eggs, and another with 2 young (Eisele & Downey). The last was on June 29, when it had 3 eggs (L. Fischer).

BANK SWALLOW: A nest of this species which was started on May 11th contained 1 egg on May 18th (Downey & Eisele). The latest nests were found July 22nd, when several still harbored young (Swedenborg).

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: The earliest nest was found on May 28th by Stanley Stein. In it reposed 2 white eggs. Three nests were found by Mr. Swedenborg, the latest on June 25th, when the young were about a week old.

BARN SWALLOW: Both the first and last nests of this beautiful bird were found by E. D. Swedenborg. In the first were 2 eggs on May 18th, and the last had 4 eggs on July 30th.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Five colonies of this relatively uncommon swallow were found. They were first seen building on May 12th (Swedenborg). The latest colony was found at Sturgeon Lake on July 14th by the writer, when a nearly fledged nestling stuck his head out at me. There were also young out of the nest.

PURPLE MARTIN: Many colonies were seen. Morse observed Martins gathering nesting material on May 12th, and Swedenborg saw a female feeding young in the nest as late as July 30th.

BLUE JAY: Eight Blue Jays' nests were found, the first with 5 eggs on May 4th (S. Stein & Woolsey). The last had 4 eggs on June 21st (the writer). The following account is written by Ralph Woolsey from Fargo, N.D., "On May 12th a pair of jays started looking for a place to nest, finally choosing one near the house, where I could watch the building operations and their various mating antics and contortions, accompanied by sounds which only jays are capable of producing. On May 14th they commenced construction, working leisurely in the morning or evening, but not in the heat of the day. Both birds took part in the building program. The twigs were not picked up from the ground, but were broken off trees and bushes by the birds. The nest was completed in a week, and the first egg was laid on the 21st, followed by three more in as many days."

CROW: An incubating crow was seen first on April 24th (Evans). On May 10th a nest with 5 young about 5 days old was found by Eisele and Downey).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: Mrs. Wilson watched Chickadees building at Montevideo, May 1st, but the only nest investigated was found by Downey & Eisele on May 13th, and contained 3 eggs. that could be seen, and probably more.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: The only Nuthatch's nest was found on April 27th, and contained eggs (Swanson).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Marius Morse saw a single adult enter a hole at the top of a dead tamarack in the spruce-tamarack swamp in Itasca Park on June 23rd. This is an interesting observation, for although it is a common bird, the nest has never been found in Minnesota, according to Dr. Robert's, Birds of Minnesota.

HOUSE WREN: No occupied nests were found until June 19th, when Huseby located one with 5 eggs at Mille Lacs, but a wren was seen building on May 12th by Downey and Eisele. The latest nest was seen on August 5th, when it housed 4 young. Mrs. Wilson reports an old syrup pail hung upside down between the wires of a fence as a nesting site for this heteronidifier.

WINTER WREN: Four young out of the nest were seen June 17th at Ericksburg (Swanson). Another brood of young was being fed at Onamia, July 31st, before the eyes of E.D. Swedenborg. The

latter is more southerly than any positive breeding record given in Dr. Robert's, Birds of Minnesota.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN: Eight nests were found on May 29th with contents averaging 4 eggs (L. Fischer & S. Stein). Four nests were found on June 17th in Polk County, also with an average of 4 eggs (Evans & Risser).

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN: A nest in the process of construction was found June 11th by Downey & Risser.

CATBIRD: Sixteen Catbird nests were found, the earliest with 3 eggs on May 18th (S. Stein). The latest was seen August 6th, when it housed 3 young (Morse).

BROWN THRASHER: Huseby reports the earliest nest, May 10th, when 1 egg adorned its interior. The latest nest was found June 24th, and the writer was properly thrashed while examining the very small, naked young.

ROBIN: Needless to say, many Robins' nests were observed, but the first egg was laid on April 13th (Eisele & Downey). A nest found at Onamia, July 30th was crowded with 4 large young (Swedenborg).

HERMIT THRUSH: Four nests of this musical bird were found, the first on June 16th at Itasca Park. Four eggs were being incubated (Morse). The last was found at Sturgeon Lake July 19th, with 2 eggs which hatched on the 29th (the writer).

BLUEBIRD: A nest with 1 egg was found on April 15th, an early date indeed (S. Stein). The latest date is June 19th, when a female was seen carrying nutritive material to a nest (Swanson). An abandoned Bank Swallow's hold is an interesting nesting sight reported by Downey & Eisele. Still another nest was built under the eaves of an outhouse (Risser).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: Although there are a number of breeding records, only 2 occupied nests of this species are recorded in Dr. Roberts', Birds of Minnesota, both of which were found by Mr. Swedenborg. Two more occupied nests were found this year, and both of them were also found by Mr. Swedenborg, at Onamia. The first had 9 eggs on May 29th, and the second contained young which left the nest on June 20th. Aside from these nests, young were seen being fed in five localities, the latest on July 29th (Swedenborg).

CEDAR WAXWING: A nest with 3 eggs was found by the writer, June 24th. The last contained 4 young on August 18th (Morse).

WOOD THRUSH: The first nest was located on May 22nd, and contained 1 egg. A nest with 4 eggs was seen at Swan Lake on June 15th (Dobie).

MIGRANT SHRIKE: A nest with 5 eggs was found on April 26th (Swedenborg). When it was visited by Gustav Swanson on May 25th, it again held 5 eggs, evidently a second brood.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Yellow-throated Vireos nested on the Montevideo Golf Course, but the nests were too high to be investigated (Mrs. Wilson). The only investigated nest was found at Fargo, N.D. on June 30th, when the 4 young had seen about 7 days and nights (Woolsey).

RED-EYED VIREO: The first investigated nest is reported by Woolsey from Deer River on June 19th, when 3 eggs comprised the contents. As late as August 9th a nest with nearly fledged young was found at Mille Lacs (Huseby).

WARBLING VIREO: On May 28th Dobie found a nest of this songster with 3 eggs at Swan Lake. The last nest with eggs was seen on June 14th (Swedenborg).

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: John Huseby found the only nest of this creeper at Mille Lacs. On July 24th the young were ready to leave. Young being fed out of the nest were seen a week later near the same place (Swedenborg).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Marius Morse found a nest of this species at Itasca Park on July 14th. There were 4 eggs, which were about to hatch on the 21st. This is the only Nashville's nest reported.

YELLOW WARBLER: A nest with 2 eggs on May 21st was the earliest one reported (Morse). The last was found on July 7th at Sturgeon Lake, by the writer. It harbored 3 eggs of the warbler and 2 of the Cowbird. A pair of Yellow Warblers built a nest right under a House Wren's nest, and were chased out by the wrens 3 days later (Mrs. Wilson).

MYRTLE WARBLER: A young bird was being fed at Ericsburg on June 18th in the presence of Gustav Swanson.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: On June 10th a young bird was being fed at the Brule River, and 3 weeks later an adult was seen feeding a young Cowbird at Onamia, both by E.D. (Swedenborg).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: An adult was feeding a young Blackburnian and also a young Cowbird at Onamia, July 31st (Swedenborg).

PINE WARBLER: I watched a young bird of this species being fed at Sturgeon Lake on July 8th.

OVEN-BIRD: Three nests of this bird were found. One seen near Deer River on June 19th harbored a young Oven-bird, 2 dead young Oven-birds, and one Cowbird. "Stern justice was meted out to the apparent offender, and the remaining Oven-bird left the nest shortly after." (Woolsey) Another nest was found by Russell Johnson at Itasca Park, and sheltered 4 eggs on June 28th. The other nest also had 4 eggs, and was found at Ericsburg on July 5th (Swanson).

GRINELL'S WATER-THRUSH: A young bird out of the nest was seen at Mille Lacs Lake, August 19th (Huseby).

MOURNING WABLER: E. D. Swedenborg watched several adults feeding their own young and a young Cowbird in Carlton County, July 7th.

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT: A nest with 5 eggs was found on June 5th (Breckenridge). The young in another nest left their home when approached on June 23rd by Robert Upson.

REDSTART: Two nests were found, both by Swedenborg. The first on June 5th, and held 3 Redstart eggs and 1 Cowbird egg, while the second contained 3 well developed young a week later.

ENGLISH SPARROW: A nest at Madison harbored 1 egg on May 14 (Mrs. Peterson). Another at Onamia housed young birds on August 18 (Swedenborg).

BOBOLINK: 6 nests of this songster were found within a week. The first was seen June 5, and it had 4 eggs (Eisele & Downey). 2 nests were seen on June 11, one with 3 and one with 5 eggs (Downey & Risser). At three nests that I saw, the female flushed directly from the nest only when almost stepped upon. I mention this as it is contrary to certain popular beliefs.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: A nest with 2 eggs plus 3 Cowbird eggs was found May 16 (Swedenborg).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: A nest of this species with 4 eggs was found on May 23 by Downey & Eisele, and another with 5 eggs at Ericsburg, June 28 (Swanson). The earliest and latest Meadowlarks' nest were not identified as to species. They were on May 13 (6 eggs, Dobie), and July 4 (3 eggs, Evans).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: The first nests were seen at Swan Lake, May 28 with 4 eggs (Dobie). On June 17, many nests were seen with eggs and young in all stages of development at Polk County (Evans & Risser).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD: A nest with 4 eggs on May 13 is the earliest reported (Swedenborg). The latest record is of a nest with 2 young on June 21 (Breckenridge).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Mrs. Peterson saw a female Oriole carrying nesting material at Madison, May 18. A nest with 1 egg was blown to the ground during a storm at Montevideo on July 3 (Mrs. Wilson).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Gustav Swanson reports an odd nest of this species which was built in a small spruce about 4 feet from the ground. It contained 3 eggs on May 10, the earliest date. The last date is June 7, when John Dobie found a nest with one young bird.

BRONZED GRACKLE: The first completed nest contained 3 eggs on April 30 (Downey & Eisele). The latest record involves another interesting nesting site, a hollow stub in which young birds were being fed. This was seen at Ericsburg, June 23, also by Swanson.

COWBIRD: Cowbird eggs were found in nests of the Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Redstart, Eastern Meadowlark, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. A young Cowbird was found in an Oven-bird's nest, and young Cowbirds were seen being fed by Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Mourning Warblers. The first Cowbird egg was seen May 16 (Swedenborg), and the last one August 11 (Mrs. Wilson).

SCARLET Tanager: A nest in the process of construction was seen at Brainerd, May 30 (Evans).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: A nest with 2 eggs was looked into by Eisele & Downey on June 4. The latest nest was found at Montevideo on July 16, when it was the home of two young birds (Mrs. Wilson).

INDIGO BUNTING: No nests of this common bird were found, but I saw young out of the nest being fed on June 24.

PURPLE FINCH: Mr. Swedenborg found the only nest of this species, at Onamia. It was nearing completion on May 30. Three other observers report young being fed out of the nest, the latest on August 7 (Huseby).

GOLDFINCH: An extremely early nest of this species in which the 3 young had already hatched was found on June 5 by Downey & Eisele. The last nest was seen August 18, and the 2 young were almost full grown (Morso).

TOWHEE: The only Towhee's nest was found by Mr. Breckenridge on June 4. 2 Towhee eggs and 1 Cowbird egg adorned its interior.

SAVANNAH SPARROW: 4 nests of this bird were found, the first one with 4 eggs on May 21 (Swedenborg). The last nest was found by the writer in Polk County, June 20, when it harbored 5 eggs, 2 of which had been deposited by Cowbirds.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: The only Minnesota nest was found on June 1, when it was not finished (Swedenborg). Woolsey reports a nest with 2 eggs at Fargo, N.D., May 22. Both these nests were later deserted, the latter after the deposition of 2 Cowbird eggs.

LECONTE'S SPARROW: Gustav Swanson saw a young Leconte's being fed at Ericsburg, June 18.

VESPER SPARROW: A nest with 4 eggs was found at Frazee, June 5 (Woolsey). One other nest was seen at Onamia, May 29, at which time it housed 3 very small young (Swedenborg).

LARK SPARROW: Mrs. Wilson saw adult Lark Sparrows carrying food at Montevideo, July 8, and on the 20th young Lark Sparrows were on the wing and feeding themselves.

CHIPPING SPARROW: A finished but empty nest was seen May 5 (Woolsey). A nest was found at Montevideo as late as August 11, and in it were 1 sparrow egg and 1 Cowbird egg (Mrs. Wilson).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Three nests were found on June 5th, two with 3 eggs by Breckenridge, and one with 2 young by Elsele. A nest still contained young birds on July 13 (Breckenridge).

FIELD SPARROW: Strange to say, the only nest of this eastern bird was found at Montevideo. The nest was found on June 17, when it had 4 eggs. Ten days later it had been destroyed by a storm. It was seen by Mrs. Wilson & Mrs. Peterson.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 4 eggs reposed in a White-throat's nest at Onamia, May 28 (Swedenborg), and the latest nest, with 4 young, was seen at Birchdale, July 15 (Swanson).

SWAMP SPARROW: No nest was found, but 4 young out of the nest were seen at Ericsburg on June 27 (Swanson).

SONG SPARROW: 15 Song Sparrow's nests were found. One with 3 eggs was seen on the first day of May, by Leander Fischer and Stanley Stein. It seems odd that out of 15 nests of this bird which generally raises so many broods, the last nest was seen on June 16. Mrs. Wilson found it at Montevideo, and it contained 5 eggs.

TRAILING ALONG WITH THE M.B.C. AT STURGEON LAKE

By Stanley Stein

Once again the Minnesota Bird Club sponsored an expedition in search of birds, fun, and good fellowship. This time the region about Sturgeon Lake was selected. Through the efforts and good fortune of Alden Risser permission was obtained to use a cabin at Camp Miller, the camp of the Duluth Y.M.C.A. Fifteen members of the club participated in the trip: Marius Morse, Bob Montgomery, Carl Olson, Charles Evans, John Jones, Gustav Swanson, W. J. Breckenridge, Percy Christianson, Bob Upson, Walter Downey, Frank Zoubek, Alden Risser, Leander Fischer, and Stanley and Ernest Stein. It is needless to say that the club is grateful to Mr. N. D. McLoon, the camp director, for his courtesy in granting permission to use the camp; and to Mr. Krebs, the caretaker, for the helping hand which he offered on numerous occasions.

As usual in any camp the cooks reigned supreme. Carl Olson and Ernest Stein had the honor of cooking for fifteen hungry amateur ornithologists. It was a man-sized job, and I must say that they showed great promise as camp cooks, but then those of us who did K. P. duty can at least lay claim to a little credit for removing all the peelings from the potatoes.

We arrived in camp early on the morning of September 16th. Soon after camp was arranged, various small groups set out to determine the ornithological possibilities of the surrounding territory. Some club members went birding in the Jack Pine forests near camp, while others explored the shore of Sturgeon Lake. It was those tramping along the lake shore who made the first interesting find - Black-bellied and Golden Plovers. It is needless to say that at lunch time we decided to explore the entire lake shore. We all wanted to see the Golden Plover.

The lake shore is about nine miles long, varying from sandy beach to swamp. During the course of the hike many of us were quite certain that the trip was at least ninety miles long, but the difficulties occasionally encountered were fully compensated for by the birds seen. At least fifteen Black-bellied Plovers were seen in the course of the hike. Each time a flock of plovers flushed, each and every field glass was trained on the flying birds in an effort to detect the dark upper tail coverts, the unmistakable mark of a Golden Plover, but not even once were we rewarded. In company with the plovers, we often noted Sanderlings. The birds were extremely tame, allowing several of us to approach within three feet of them.

Sharp-tailed Sparrows were numerous, and many side trips were made in chase of particularly elusive individuals. Both Leconte's and Nelson's Sparrows were identified. Upon rounding a point of land extending into the lake, we came upon a Caspian Tern on the beach in company with several Ring-billed Gulls. Remarks about the aristocratic appearance of the bird were numerous and really well founded.

Shortly after, three birds were seen bobbing along the shore, and immediately eight eager bird hunters could be seen crawling through the willows in order to obtain a closer view of the strangers. After a time they were identified as American Pipits, a new species to many of the observers.

A Great Blue Heron offered a bit of comedy during the afternoon. In front of camp, just as we were leaving, a Great Blue Heron was flushed. It flew several hundred feet along shore in the direction we were going and landed. In a short time it was again flushed, and once more it flew ahead, this time about a quarter mile, and so on thru the afternoon the heron was kept moving until late in the evening it was once more in front of camp. I wonder how it enjoyed going to sleep on an empty stomach.

For three of us Saturday afternoon was the highlight of the trip. While we were exploring a patch of woods in search of warblers, a peculiar sort of black bird flew past. Marius shouted, "Starlings". We started in pursuit. The birds proved to be extremely wary making identification difficult, but after a time we managed to obtain a good look at the birds while they perched in the top of a dead tree.

Upon returning to camp we found that some of the fellows had decided to stage a snipe hunt after dark. Percy was chosen as the "sniper". Shortly after sunset he was stationed, with lantern and sack, along the lake shore about a mile from camp. The escorting party left, ostensibly to drive the snipe toward his lantern. About midnight Percy returned to camp. I am glad to say that Percy enjoyed the farce almost as much as we did.

The larger portion of Sunday was spent in exploring a large tamarack swamp, but with the exception of two Winter Wrens, nothing of interest was found. While returning to camp, however, two Golden Plovers sailed past our heads and alighted in the pasture through which we were walking. We sat down and watched them walk around for a long time. Truly the opportunity to make such a close acquaintance with a bird as uncommon as the Golden Plover was a fitting close to a most interesting and instructive outing.

A total of 105 species was observed during the three days, September 16, 17, 18 by the fifteen members who participated. These species are enumerated on the following page.

Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
American Bittern
Mallard
Baldpate
Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Blue-winged Teal
Lesser Scaup
Ruffed Grouse
Prairie Chicken
Ring-necked Pheasant
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Osprey
Duck Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Virginia Rail
Sora
Coot
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Golden Plover
Black-bellied Plover
Wilson's Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Sanderling
Herring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Common Tern
Caspian Tern
Mourning Dove
Black-billed Cuckoo
Barred Owl
Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Belted Kingfisher
Kingbird
Phoebe
Horned Lark
Blue Jay
Crow

Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Winter Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Short-billed Marsh Wren
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Robin
Olive-backed Thrush
Bluebird
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Red-eyed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Black and White Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Parula Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-poll Warbler
Pine Warbler
Palm Warbler
Northern Yellow-throat
Redstart
Starling
English Sparrow
Bobolink
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Bronzed Grackle
Purple Finch
Goldfinch
White-winged Crossbill
Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Leconte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Slate-colored Junco
Tree Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lapland Longspur

AN AUTUMN DAY IN THE WOODS

'Tis Autumn, and through the fallen leaves I stray
Beside the willowed bank of a slowly moving stream;
The aged woodland trees are stript of leaves and gray,
Like the dim and hazy pictures of a dream;
But the willows by the river, in grace and beauty sway,
All their boles and branches with golden light agleam.

The singing birds of Summer are all gone
From their homes amid the leafless trees and bare,
And I miss the golden choral of their song
As I tread the silent, leafy paths; aware
That in Summer's sunny days, a happy throng
Bestowed on birdlings, constant loving care.

A Bittern by the water-edge; a Heron in the tree-top;
A Waxwing in a berry-bush; a Kinglet in the willow;
And all the chatty Sparrow-folk that stop
A while in every weed grown fence-row;
So, down among the dry and fallen leaves, I drop
To watch the lovely migrant birds I know.

---- Nellie Ottman Wilson.

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At the October meeting our president, Mr. Swanson, entertained us with a discourse on his many and varied experiences while doing field work for the University Museum of Natural History during the past summer. We were very fortunate to hear Mr. Ralph T. King at the November meeting. He gave an interesting and instructive talk on his extensive work with the Ruffed Grouse.

Varied indeed are the attitudes of human beings toward the coming of winter, but we who love the outdoors are fortunate in having only pleasant anticipations of the beauty and invigorating character of this season. To us as bird lovers the very knowledge that every winter hike is apt to bring some new or unexpected bird to our attention is more than sufficient stimulus to send us out and keep our interest aroused in any kind of weather. The most striking thing of all, however, is that we always feel repaid for a walk regardless of whether we have seen any unusual birds, for not only do we thoroughly enjoy tramping thru the snow itself, but the very paucity of birds adds to the interest in every individual chickadee or other bird whose friendly and curious ways are often overlooked in other seasons in the excitement of separating out the less common birds.

GODWITS AND NITWITS

By Charles Evans and Alden Rissler

It was on the afternoon of June 16 that the writers, free from the shackles of nine months of study, vociferously made their way along the highway several miles north of Crookston shouting in many a lusty the unharmonious song their joy to the prairie winds. We were heading for the far-famed virgin prairie of the Red River Valley, the home of the Baird's Sparrow, the Sprague's Pipit, and the sonorous-voiced, overgrown shore bird, the Marbled Godwit. As we capered and warbler out way along, shocking the jack rabbits and making the meadow-larks plunk in disgust at these nitwits, we suddenly became aware of a sound such as no other bird we had yet heard could even approach. Surprised into temporary stillness we turned and saw a large brown bird flying across the prairie toward us, excitedly uttering loud, deep notes, sometimes in two syllables, in which case there was a slight resemblance to the words "go-wit", whence the name "Godwit". He was coming to welcome us to his native land. And what a welcome he gave us! Flying with slow wing beats he circled around us several times not over twenty feet away and then lit on the highway parading in perfect view, calling all the time in that strangely pleasing voice. Not far behind the first bird came an equally noisy second which lit in the grass by the road.

We had expected to find these birds in the vicinity, but were surprised to find them coming so far to meet us. During the next few days we learned that it is their usual custom to accost any passer-by in this way whenever the latter comes within a quarter of a mile or more of them. This practise of flushing at such a great distance made it difficult to locate their nests or young. If we proceeded in the direction from which the birds had come or remained in the vicinity of the spot from whence they arose, they continued to be concerned about our presence; otherwise not. Usually they hover around close by, alighting rather frequently, but on two occasions, both times when the observer was alone, one of the birds repeatedly dove at the intruder like a Black Tern.

We camped that nite about seventeen miles northwest of Crookston and made this place our headquarters until the morning of the 20th, when we started for home. On the first day after we were settled on the prairie there were two pairs of godwits on the same field with us, but after that only one pair remained in the vicinity. If we had been sleeping or sitting down to eat and then stood up, the birds usually came flying over to investigate. On one occasion, one of us had been walking back and forth over a small area in a vain search for a Sprague's Pipit's nest; impatient to cover the

place sooner, he started to run back and forth over the same area, and even this brot one of the godwits over to complain.

We noticed that the pair of godwits which was on the same field as we were arose from, and more concerned about different places at different times; so we assumed that they had young rather than eggs. Being very eager to find the young, we spent the morning and half the afternoon looking for them by going away and flushing the old birds and by hiding in near-by bushes. We thot our technique was the best we could effect under the circumstances; so we gave up the project, crediting the godwits with more wit then the nitwits.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent looking for various sparrow nests, especially Baird's Sparrow, but in finding only a Savannah's nest. The sun was rapidly approaching the horizon, and we were wending our weary way back to camp. In so doing we happened to pass thru the godwit territory, and while scanning the grass as he went, merely on general principles, one of us noticed, to his great astonishment, a fairly large downy bird squatting in the grass. Here was the object of our many hours of diligent searching, found without even looking for it. While the photographer went to camp for his camers, the other observer carried the young godwit in the knap-sack while looking sufficiently carefully to be sure that there were no more young birds within a radius of twmety yards. Of course it is possible that only this one of the usual three or four offspring had survived, but it is our opinion that the young separate widely before squatting down.

Tho still in the down, the bird was so large that it seemed to be at least a week old. Its behavior was very interesting. It remained absolutely motionless while left on the ground, even when we put our hands over it, but from the time it had been lifted up until we finally let it go, there was an endless running, squirming, and climbing for liberty. The little devil was nearly all feet, and it needed constant attention to keep him from climbing out of the knap-sack, which is over a foot in depth. Once in a while he uttered a high pitched "peep" similiar to that of a small chick. The photographer returned and focused the camera on a rock, but the young bird was more interested in running off in the grass than posing on the rock; every time he started to run away, however, he was met by a cruel,hard hand which picked him up and put him back. After about five minutes of this, he had apparently lost more pep than the hand and walked slowly enough to be photographed. After we let him go, it was very amusing to watch him run off thru the grass looking this way and that, and wondering where to go next. His legs were so long that he was plainly visible from a long distance. When followed, he found a place to squat down and hide, but

after having been picked up and allowed to escape again, resumed the retreat. All this time the old birds were protesting as usual, but no more vigorously than when one approached their territory from a great distance. As we left, we looked back to see whether they lit where the young bird has last squatted, but while we were within observing distance, they did not.

On the 19th, the following day, we decided to explore some of the surrounding country. We found a number of pairs of godwits as well as individual feeding birds. One pair flew up relatively near us, and as we had noticed the spot from which the second bird had come, we began another search, which soon revealed a nest with eggs. There were two eggs in the nest and another egg about a foot away, which had been broken open and contained the remains of a fairly well developed embryo. The nest was simple, being lined with fine grasses, but there was a definite mass of nesting material, as contrasted with the even simpler nests of Killdeers and Spotted Sandpipers. There was only one film left, and in trying to photograph the nest, the shutter got caught, bringing forth the customary terminology. This little misfortune, however, was soon forgotten amidst our very pleasant memories of these interesting birds.

AT HOME WITH THE WARBLERS

By Marius Morse

During the past summer, between June 14 and July 22, I had occasion to spend much of my time in the great forests of Itasca Park, an ideal place for Minnesota nesting birds, for there the feathered friends of the woods are extended full protection from harm. Wild life of all kinds can peacefully and fearlessly enjoy the solitude of the magnificent, far-reaching forest lands.

It was with a great deal of pleasure and enthusiasm that I set about my study of the bird life in the Park. Warblers were indeed plentiful, and I spent a good share of my time afield either hunting out some new and interesting species or searching diligently for warbler nests. Anyone who has ever been in the Park and experienced a morning afield with the birds on a bright June day will sympathize with me when I say that to one heretofore unacquainted with the majority of warbler notes and songs, the situation is one most wonderfully confused.

Of the thirteen warbler species of which I obtained sight records, one was rather doubtful -- that of the Bay-breasted Warbler. The remaining twelve species were observed

several to many times, with the exception of the Grinnell's Water-thrush, which was seen and heard but once on the shore of Lake Itasca in a large spruce - tamarack bog.

The Oven-bird, the Black-throated Green, and the Blackburnian Warblers were by far the most common species, judging from the many occasions on which their songs were heard. The teacher-bird's full ringing strains sounded from within the forest hour in and hour out. The tall Norway and White Pines harbored the bright-colored little Blackburnian Warbler, whose weak, lisping notes drifted down out of the high evergreen branches even during the heat of a long summer afternoon. From the roadsides could be heard the whistles and insect-like calls of the Black-throated Green Warblers as they dashed about in the leafy foliage of the forest trees in search of food.

The Nashville and Parula Warblers were residents of the swamp. Their musical efforts were heard chiefly in the morning. The Parula usually climbed to the tip of a tall black spruce to deliver its sputtering notes, while the elusive Nashville seemed to prefer singing from lower down among the concealing branches of tamarack or spruce. From the marsland the Maryland Yellow-throat, not to be outdone, poured forth its forceful notes from the cattails and reeds. High above one's head, more often than not in the sheltering evergreen branches of a Norway or White Pine, could be heard the rolling, musical chips of the Pine Warbler. From the damp recesses of a woodland swail, the shy, secretive Mourning Warbler uttered its liquid song from the branch of a small tree. Anywhere in the forest one might expect to hear the "Pleased to meet you" notes of the beautiful little Chestnut-sided Warbler. The careful eye might even seek out and find the sprightly Redstart dashing hither and yon among the leafy concealment of the deciduous trees. Taking to the bog, one would perhaps meet that industrious striped warbler, the Black and White Creeper, as it walks busily over the naked branches, repeatedly uttering a series of weak, hissing sounds.

One might suppose that, after being able to identify all these warbler notes, his job was complete, but not so. Matters become more complicated when one discovers that the Parula, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warblers possess two distinctly different songs. So one can see that really knowing warblers' songs required a great deal of patience and many hours in the field, but the satisfaction derived from possessing an accurate knowledge of their notes is more than sufficient reward for all effort spent. It's great fun learning, but a real job. Three cheers to the man who can sit back and say with all assurance, "I know my warbler notes."

MARSH HAWK FRIENDS

By Charles Evans

Althou all hawks are branded by our laws as criminals and are accused of that most atrocious crime of killing what man wishes reserved for himself to kill, they have a fascination for me which is not shared by any other family of birds. Of the many species of hawks, there is one for which I have a sense of friendship closer and more intimate than for any of the others. This is the Marsh Hawk. It cannot equal the majesty of the sparing Red-tail, nor the terrible power of the dashing Duck Hawk, but the Marsh Hawk as it beats its watchful way slowly over the lowlands is to me an intensely interesting friend.

It was on April 9, 1927 that I first came to sense the rare possibilities which a friendship with this harrier has to offer, for on that day I first watched the interesting acrobatic feats which form the courtship of the Marsh Hawk. Every spring since that year I have looked forward to the courting performances of the Marsh Hawk as one of the interesting events of the season.

On May 10, 1930 I was crossing a swamp at Fort Snelling, when I saw a male Marsh Hawk coming over the tops of the trees lining the bank of the river a half mile away. Motionless I waited, noticing as he came closer, something carried in his claws. Passing above me he continued his straight course about a hundred yards before I noticed a female coming to meet him. When she was directly below him, he dropped his load, and she turned over grasping sideward and forward with her claws but missed the catch. Like a flash she checked her course and dove catching the falling morsel before it hit the ground. She settled down nearby to eat it and shortly flew up again, to sail around and stretch her wings before dropping back to the nest. I marked the spot where she finally lit by a tree on the opposite hillside and without looking to either side started toward it. Thru water knee-deep, and over hummocks I went with my gaze fixed on the tree. I had gone about half way when I noticed out of the corner of my eye a black and white moving object on the ground. Stopping I glanced down and saw a skunk with the all-important tail at half-mast. With crossed fingers I hastily fixed my eyes on the tree and went on. Nothing untoward happened, praise be to the skunk. The hawk flushed from the marked place revealing five white eggs in a poorly made nest of straw. That the historically famous Greek should jump out of the bath tub and run down the street in rather undignified fashion shouting "Eureka!" just because he discovered what he had been seeking, seemed not in the least strange to me, for this was the first Marsh Hawk's

nest I had ever found. In retrospect, I think it rather fortunate I did not find the nest while in the bath tub.

For two years following this my visits to Marsh Hawks were few and hurried, but after hearing Mr. Breckenridge talk about the hawks he is making an intensive study of, I decided that regardless of all else, I must see more of my old friends, M. Hawk and family.

On July 17, I went out to a marsh at Fort Snelling not far from the one where the nest was found and spent the afternoon hidden among the bushes on the hillside getting acquainted with a dark colored full-grown young hawk and his father. The young fellow, not yet old enough to sever the bonds of home, spent all of his time in the immediate vicinity of the marsh. The old one was seen about home only when he came in with food for the family, and the adult female was not seen at all.

It was about 12:30, a half hour after I arrived, that the male put in his first appearance. The young one, peeping with joy, flew out to meet him, but his joy was not, I fear, due to affection of offspring to father nearly as much as to fondness of a hungry bird for food. Without any preliminary greetings as soon as the young one was in position, the old one dropped a piece of food he had been carrying and made off over the hill. The other missed the catch but settled into the weeds where the food had dropped and did not reappear for about two hours.

In the meantime the old one returned about 1:30 and hunted high and low all over the marsh, but was unable to find any trace of his dark plumaged offspring. At one time he lit in the grass about five yards away from me enabling me to see clearly that he was carrying a frog. Finally he gave up the hunt and settled down presumably to eat the frog himself. When he reappeared, he flew away over the trees.

Not fifteen minutes after his father left, the young one came up out of the weeds and lit on a perch about twenty yards from me. It peeped in the pitious manner of all hungry young birds, but in vain, for the other had not reappeared when I left in late afternoon. Before leaving I went to a place among some quill reeds where I had at different times seen both hawks light and there found the nest, empty except for a considerable number of droppings, some of which were fresh, a very few regurgitated pellets, and an unhatched egg buried under considerable debris about a foot from the nest. Radiating from the nest were three or four runways thru the weeds, apparently made by the young birds. In one of these I found a number of

hawk feathers, relating briefly and mutely the final chapter in the life of one young Marsh Hawk.

Three days later, on the twentieth of July, I visited the marsh where the nest and eggs were found in 1929. Here there were two well-grown, flying young ones being fed by the parents. Usually the one which happened to first see the old one coming in got the food, but once both birds swooped up under the parent simultaneously, and the prize went to the one with the greatest skill in catching. In this case, the unfortunate one chased the other a short distance but soon gave up and went back to the perch to wait for another chance.

On the twenty-third I came out to the same place about 7 o' clock in the morning anticipating an entire day in the delightful company of this little family. Having secreted myself in a well hidden, yet fairly comfortable blind of bushes, I watched a transfer or two and about 9:15 noticed that one of the birds was not in sight. As they frequently disappeared for a short time among the weeds or on short excursions up the river, I thought little of this. At 9:20 the second bird left the swamp flying in a straight course across the river and out of sight. Altho I waited until dusk, about 7:45, neither one reappeared. At 10:45 the adult male came in carrying something in one claw. For fifteen minutes he hunted back and forth, circling high and again beating along just over the weed tops, looking for the young ones. Finally, like his neighbor of the nearby marsh, he settled down in the weeds to eat. I presume, what the ungrateful progeny would not come and get. A half hour later he came up again and perched for a few minutes of fond reflection before leaving the place which until the young ones had left this morning had been home.

But a few minutes it tarried and then went off to the west disappearing across the river. It did not come back that day to see if the others had returned, and the next day there was not a hawk to be seen at the marsh altho I walked around it twice, once in the morning and again in the afternoon, hoping they might return.

A WREN'S SUMMER HOME

By Nellie O. Wilson

Out in the pasture beyond the Montevideo Golf Course in line with No. 6 tee, a two quart size Karo syrup pail had been stuck between the fence wires. The pail was old and rusty all over, and had been there at least two summers. It hung with the open end down and seemed none too secure.

About May 10, 1932, two very lively and very happy wrens appeared in the neighborhood of the old pail. They seemed always to be busy about the fence posts; one large and partly decayed one was much favored. It looked like an ideal place for a wren's home, and the high woven wire fence prevented me from seeing the other side of the post. Anyway, I took it for granted that the nest was there.

A few feet along the fence is a plum tree where the wrens and Field Sparrows spent much time. It was right beside the path and all through May, June, and the first two weeks in July, every time I passed the wrens scolded vociferously.

Saturday evening, July 16, I made my usual trip along the path beside the fence -- went to check the Field Sparrows. For the first time this summer the wrens failed to scold, and I found them, old and young, in the plum tree. And for the first time since June 3, the Field Sparrows failed to sing for me.

A little disappointed at not hearing my favorite sparrow song, I turned back. As I came to the old pail on the fence, I gave it a little shove with my finger, and it fell from the wire. And there, inside the pail, was the long sought nest, and not once had I seen the wren near that pail.

I dismantled the nest to see how and of what it was constructed and carefully counted the components. There were 505 small twigs from Black Haw bushes, ranging in length from less than one-half inch to eight inches. The wrens had placed the long twigs criss-cross over the open end of the pail and then had built the nest inside. Mixed with Black Haw twigs were about half as many pieces of last year's Canada Thistle having round spider cocoons attached to them. The cocoons clung to the haw twigs and held the mass together. There were about one hundred cocoons. For a lining they had used 23 downy feathers and four horse hairs.

The nest was compact, and I could put my hand between it and the pail, but when I attempted to return the materials to the pail, it was with great difficulty that I got them in, and the pail is full to the brim.

LIBERTY - It was a big day, October 7, when Chuck Evans gave his two pet Broad-winged Hawks their freedom. The birds had been taken from the nest; so they had never flown farther than the length of their cage, about 15 feet. In preparation for their coming out party, they were put in a small cage and taken to the roof of the Zoology Building. After the several guests had arrived, some refreshments were placed outside the door of the cage, and the door opened. After a few minutes the first adventurer walked out, looked at his guests, and flew in the opposite direction, which led him to the wall surrounding the roof. Unaware of his freedom, the young hawk clung to this wall just as he had been used to clinging to the wall of the apartment which had been his home for over a month. Soon he flew back the other way, and gaining altitude looked over the wall, and lost no time in taking advantage of his freedom. He lit on the campus lawn, where he attracted much attention and was forced to frequently retreat. Each time he lit on the ground, and never having had experience in checking his flight, he rolled over once or twice after reaching terra firma. Finally he exhibited more wit and lit in a tree, also with some difficulty. He stayed there an hour or so and has not been heard of since.

His less adventuresome brother did not step out of his small cage for several minutes, but finally he flew, showing psychology similar to the other's, but unfortunately he flew around the building, and his destination was not determined.

--- Alden Risser.

WATCHING A ROBIN'S NEST - On April 25 a pair of Robins started the mud frame of their nest. There seemed to be no available mud, so the Robins took it upon themselves to make some. This was very nicely accomplished by hopping around in the water of the bird bath, then out in the dirt. Repeating this several times the earth became wet enough to be picked together to carry. I decided that birds as clever as that would prove an interesting study. Everything went fine with the home building and by May 1 the first egg was laid. But on May 2 the male was accidentally killed, and the female had to carry on alone. A good many grackles lost their lives in trying to rob her nest. Never seeming to tire of finding worms for her three hungry children, she toiled early and late until they could care for themselves.

-- Burnice N. Ebel.

CORRECTION - My attention has been called to an unfortunate error I made in compiling the Field Sparrow nests in the previous number of the FLICKER. Two Field Sparrow's nests were found in Lac Qui Parle County, both with 4 eggs. One was found June 17 by Mrs. Wilson, and the other on June 25th by Mrs. Peterson.

-- A. R.