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A Review of Nebraska Ornithology

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Edited by Myron H. Swenk, 1410 North Thirty-seventh Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Articles or notes for publication should be in the hands of the Editor by the first day of the month of publication.

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Actual date of publication, January 20, 1933
OBSERVATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF BIRDS TO THE SQUARE MILE IN CUSTER COUNTY

By J. M. Bates

At about 9:30 o'clock on the morning of May 10, 1902, I started to drive to Callaway, Custer County, Nebraska, from the home of William Miller, five miles southwest of town. I had as companions two farmers, respectively about fifty and sixty years of age. I announced my intention of noting every bird along the road, within easily recognizable distance, which meant for one's eyes a range of about twenty rods wide. Of course some birds, as the Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Yellow-headed Blackbird and others, could have been recognized at a much greater distance. However, such was not my purpose, which was to include only a range in which all of the birds seen could be identified. My intention was to gain some idea of the number and kind of birds per square mile in that section of Nebraska, on the one hundredth meridian. The farmers assured me that the birds were visibly increasing. I hoped that was correct.

About three-fourths of the land along the road was broken, and in rye, wheat, corn or fallow. The fallow and grassland were favorable for birds; the grain and partly broken ground were distinctly unfavorable. The roadside was favorable, being quite well grassed, except for shy birds and those that affect swampy or woodland conditions. The fence was favorable, as was also the time of day. The earlier birds were nestling, and the females were inconspicuous and scarce. The later birds were feeding and gathering nest material. Many of them were not back from the South, but these were such species as we were not likely to see much of in these prairie conditions. We passed one cottonwood grove and perhaps twenty-five scattered trees along the roadside. We drove about five to six miles an hour. The men both watched, and proved to be good observers, while I took notes and thus lost some chances of observation. The result was very imperfect. I wish it could have been given in exact chronological order, to show distribution, but that would have required a slower gait and about one hundred times as much writing in the wagon. As it was, I wrote the name but once; and then scored. The road was four rods wide and fenced most of the way on both sides. Please bear in mind that the acres of rye were covered with rich green about six inches high, and held no birds, and that the wheat had very

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*This paper was read on the program of the fourth annual meeting of the N. O. U., held at Lincoln on January 24, 1903, by the then retiring President, the late Rev. J. M. Bates. His Presidential address, however, was on the subject "Birds and Man." It is now published (with some slight editorial revision as to names), not only because of its interest as an early census effort in Nebraska, but to be available as a basis of comparison should any N. O. U. member find an opportunity to resurvey, after thirty years' interval, this five miles of road southwest of Callaway.—Ed.
few birds, while the freshly plowed corn ground had only a few black­birds following the plow to pick up grubs. The birds were on sod, fence, trees and in the air. The list consists of sixteen species and 134 individuals, as follows:

Eastern Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) .................................. 27
Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizela paludicola*) ........................... 21
English House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*) ........ 20
Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) ............................ 14
Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*) ........ 7
Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura margaritella*) .......... 5
Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) ................................ 5
Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) .... 4
Eastern Robin (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*) ...................... 2
Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) .................................. 2
Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) ......................... 2
Northern Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) ................. 2
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*) ................................ 1
Eastern American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis tristis*) ............. 1
White-rumped Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanatus ludovicianus excubitorides*) ........................................... 1

TOTAL .......................................................... 134

I find it impossible to make any satisfactory calculation from these data, as to the average number of birds per square mile. Sometimes one would see many Western Meadowlarks in five minutes; also Desert Horned Larks and flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Bronzed Grackles, Eastern Cowbirds, Barn Swallows, and other species common in the locality. Also, the roadside conditions were very different from those of boundless unfenced pastures and cultivated fields. I hesitate even to draw a comparison except to suggest that when all things are taken into consideration—the arrival of the warblers and more insectivorous birds; the numerous natural and artificial groves that are alive with birds near the village; the water birds that frequent the South Loup River and the ponds and inferior streams—I do not believe that this enumeration will over-represent the number to be found per square mile throughout the country. Also, I am confident that we could not have observed more than three-fourths of the birds we passed—in scanning the grassland ten rods on each side of us—including the nesting females and the shyier sparrows. However, I leave them out of the calculation, taking the more scientific basis of what we enumerated.

A square mile has sixteen strips like ours, twenty rods wide and a mile long. We observed five such strips, which equals five-sixteenths of a square mile. That gives 429 to the mile. You will see that this is a very conservative estimate, Professor Bruner's being one and one-half to the acre (Report of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society for 1896, pp. 53-54), making 960 to the square mile. For my part of the state, I think my figures would be more correct for the season when these observations were made. But when we estimate the additional young birds in the summer and fall, able to slay insect pests along with their parents, it is easily seen that if my figures are approximately correct, Professor Bruner's are conservative, since they add but a trifle over two young birds to each old one, or four to a pair. Some pairs raise ten or more. At any rate, I am sure we may have reasonable confidence that his estimate and mine are within reasonable bounds and that we have, therefore, "in round numbers the 75,000,000 birds in Nebraska," for which Professor Bruner gave us credit in 1896. There should be, and may be by this time, very many more. May their tribe continue to increase!
The Canadian Pine Grosbeak at Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.—On the morning of November 8, 1932, as Mr. Swenk and I were leaving our house at 1410 North Thirty-seventh Street to go to the polls, we heard a strange bird call. The bird was soon located in a large boxelder tree northeast of our garage, but it flew away almost immediately after its discovery, calling as it flew. Mr. Swenk said, “I think that was the note of the Pine Grosbeak, although it has been fully twenty years since I have heard it.”* On November 15 I heard this note again twice, once in the morning and again in the afternoon, the call coming from somewhere south of our house, but I was not able to locate the bird itself. The note was heard again on November 18 and 21. Shortly after noon on November 22 I heard the note again. Mr. Swenk happened to be at home, and we both went out immediately, locating the bird in an elm tree on the south lot-line. A moment after being discovered it flew to the large Austrian pine back of our house, and on following it to that tree it was found in company with another. Both birds were clearly Pine Grosbeaks in the gray plumage. They were attracted to the pine by the tender young needle buds, on which they fed as we watched them.

Pine Grosbeaks were seen about our house on November 28, and on each day subsequently to and including December 7. It may be of interest to record here my observations of these birds, made from day to day.

November 28. This afternoon Mrs. George O. Smith and I first heard, and then saw, a Pine Grosbeak in the gray plumage as it was perched on a telephone wire in the back of the yard at my home. A moment after its discovery three other birds in the same plumage appeared in the crab apple tree behind the garage. In a moment all four flew to the large Austrian pine back of the house, where they fed on needle buds for a while. They then flew to some sycamore and ash trees to the northwest, then across the street to another large Austrian pine, and finally to the northeast to the College of Agriculture campus. They were not shy, but were very restless.

November 29. At 7:30 A. M. Mr. Swenk and I saw a Pine Grosbeak in the gray plumage in the crab apple tree back of our garage. At 10 o’clock I saw three birds in the gray plumage there. At noon Mr. Swenk reported that he had seen and heard one singing in a large fir tree north of our house. From its plumage it seemed to be an immature male. At 1 o’clock Mr. Swenk and I both heard Pine Grosbeaks calling, as they fed on the young pine tips in our large Austrian pine back of the house. One was in the gray plumage of the immature or female bird, and the other was in the (hitherto unobserved) bright red plumage of the old adult male. The immature bird flew to a sycamore tree just north of our drive, where it sang for several minutes the song that I have represented as No. 3 in the following notations. Suddenly it stopped singing and flew away to the northwest. Then another grosbeak was heard singing in a small pine tree in the southwest corner of our lot. It was another old male in the bright red plumage. About 2:15 P. M. I saw a Pine Grosbeak in the gray plumage come to our large Austrian pine, feed for a few minutes, and then fly on over the house to the west. As it flew out of the tree, another in the same plumage flew into it, fed on

*The occasion referred to was when a flock of thirty or forty of these birds was seen on the College of Agriculture campus, November 7, 1916, and smaller numbers on November 15 and 21 of the same year (See Proc. N. O. U., v, p. 32).—Ed.
the pine buds for several minutes, and then it also flew on over the house to the northwest.

November 30. During the noon hour, Mr. Swenk and I both watched a lone Pine Grosbeak in the gray plumage feeding in our back Austrian pine for several minutes.

December 1. This morning I saw two Pine Grosbeaks feeding in our back Austrian pine. One seemed to have much more rusty on the crown and nape than the other. They fed about ten minutes and flew away. Shortly after lunch, Mr. Swenk and I saw two Pine Grosbeaks in an elm tree southwest of our house, where they were feeding on the elm buds. One in the plumage of an immature male started singing, and its song, the commonest form, is shown as No. 2 in the notations.

December 2. Late this morning I saw a Pine Grosbeak eating buds in the crab apple tree in our back yard. It flew to the rock garden pool in the yard to the north, and splashed about in the water for some time. About the middle of the afternoon I saw a Pine Grosbeak with much rusty on its head in the ash tree north of our yard, and when it started singing I secured a record of its song. This is shown, in part, as No. 4 in the notations. It flew overhead to the crab apple tree in the back of the yard, where it continued to sing. It then flew down to the rock garden pool, where it drank, then flew away, presently to return accompanied by another, and shortly thereafter a third one joined these two. All three flew away soon, but a half hour later what may well have been the same three birds were again observed feeding in the crab apple tree. Two of them had very rusty crown, nape and rump, and I think were old females; the other one was grayer and was taken to be an immature bird. Fifteen minutes later all flew away toward the northwest.

December 3. Four Pine Grosbeaks were seen in the crab apple tree at 11 o'clock. When some dogs started barking they flew away, but a half hour later two again were seen in the same tree. Ten minutes later there were three of them feeding in the Austrian pine. One was seen in the crab apple tree during the noon hour. All were in the gray plumage.

December 4. The first thing this morning, Mr. Swenk and I saw two Pine Grosbeaks in the gray plumage eating buds in the crab apple tree, while at the same time a third bird was singing in the ash tree. It sang songs No. 3 and No. 5 of the notations. In the middle of the afternoon six Pine Grosbeaks were seen at the same time in the crab apple tree. Two of these had much bright rusty on the head and rump, the other four were much grayish, and were taken to be immature birds.

December 5. Three Pine Grosbeaks in the gray immature plumage were noted in the crab apple tree at noon.

December 6. The weather turned colder today, and when no Pine Grosbeaks were seen during the course of the morning we wondered if they had gone. But about 2 o'clock I noted one in the gray plumage in the crab apple tree, and a few minutes later two more were there. Two of these were much more rusty on the head and rump than the other one. They were all quiet and preening their feathers. Two flew away, leaving one of the more rusty colored individuals, which seemed to be resting. These two soon came back and perched on the telephone wires. A little later two more came, and there were five in the crab apple tree at the same time. All five then flew to the back Austrian pine, and began feeding on the buds. One soon flew away, but the other four remained for twenty-five minutes, systematically working from south to north in the Austrian pine, creeping along the branches sidewise, in parrot fashion, and eating the buds. One bird sang song No. 6 today.
December 7. At 7:30 A. M. Mr. Swenk and I saw seven Pine Grosbeaks at one time in and under a summer apple tree just east of our crab apple tree. Three were eating buds in the branches, and four were hopping about on the ground picking up something, and from time to time playfully flying at each other or chasing an English Sparrow. By 8 o’clock they had all gone. During the noon hour we saw three of them in our back Austrian pine. About the middle of the afternoon I saw nine Pine Grosbeaks at one time in the crab apple and summer apple trees, and on the near-by wires. I believe that these represented the entire flock. I started to take some Kodak snapshots of the group, but meanwhile they were disturbed and became scattered. A few minutes later five flew to the sycamore tree while the other four went on west and then wheeled north toward the College of Agriculture campus, the first five then following. An hour later four were back in the apple trees. They flew away, but twenty minutes later three had come back, to feed a few minutes and fly away again.

December 8. During the night a storm came from the northwest, with the temperature dropping down to three above zero and a light snowfall. The next day was colder, with more snow. No Pine Grosbeaks were seen on these days or since.*

Although Pine Grosbeaks were certainly present in the neighborhood of our home for a month (November 8 to December 7), they seemed to make our immediate vicinity their exclusive headquarters, and, with one exception, were not reported as seen in other parts of Lincoln. The exception is a report by Mrs. Ernest C. Ames, that she noted some of these birds at her home at 1750 South 20th Street during the cold wave of November 15, 1932, as they were eating small icicles formed by the water dripping from the end of a garden hose.

The ordinary call note of the Pine Grosbeaks (1) consisted of two ascending, loud, clear, plaintively whistled notes, a full tone apart, that might well be syllabilized “Come here! Come here!” It was frequently uttered by the birds when in flight. On December 4, watching one bird thus calling, another came as if in response. Some writers indicate that this call note may be three-syllabled, including a downwardly inflected note before the two upwardly inflected ones, but our birds did not so call so far as I heard. They had a variety of soft murmuring or chattering calls which they uttered chiefly while feeding in the trees. It is stated in the literature that in the spring and during the summer, on its northern breeding grounds, the song of the Pine Grosbeak is a “prolonged, melodious warble.” (Mathews). Our fall birds did not sing often, or long at a time. What was heard seemed more like subdued snatches or parts of a song than a completed effort. The song was never loud, and could not be heard at any great distance from the singer. Yet the notes were clear and sweet, though soft. The singer always delivered his song while perched well toward the top of a tree. The most complete songs were heard on November 29 and December 1, 2, 4 and 6; all fine, bright days. The song can best be described as a low-pitched, deliberate, flowing warble, composed of a varying number of groups of two or three notes, each a half tone apart, interspersed with short trills and occasional call notes, softly given. In quality it may well be compared to the warbling song of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, or of the House Finch (but much slower in tempo), and with occasional bars very suggestive of the plaintive quality of the Bluebird’s call.

This song was subject to considerable variation in its form. The commonest song (2), heard December 1 and subsequently, consisted of a

* A lone gray Pine Grosbeak returned on January 6 and 7, 1933.—Ed.
flowing or rolling succession of three tied notes, the first and third usually a tone apart, interspersed with the characteristic call notes, rapidly and softly given. Birds heard November 29 and December 4 (3) sang more in couplets, alternately a half tone up or down, these interspersed with short trills. Sometimes, as a bird heard on December 2 (4), these two types of songs were intermingled. Birds heard on December 4 and 6 (5 and 6) interposed short grace notes after certain couplets, and brought in still other variations, as shown in the accompanying notations.

Mr. Swenk decided that the exact identification of these Pine Grosbeak visitors as to subspecies was of sufficient scientific importance to justify the taking of some specimens. Accordingly, he took an immature (gray) male on November 24 and two old adult (red) males on November 29. These he has carefully studied, and his report is as follows: “In their coloration the two old male birds are clearly the Canadian Pine Grosbeak (P. e. leucura), they having the general color of the wings and tail very dark (slate color to blackish slate), the red of the head, back and under parts (except the deep neutral gray of the central and posterior abdomen and under tail coverts) solidly deep purplish red (about amaranth purple), and the feathers of the back strongly blackish centrally. Comparable specimens of the Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak (P. e. montana) from Colorado have the general color of the wings and tail lighter (about fuscous), the red of the head, back and under parts (except the pale neutral gray of the entire abdomen and under tail coverts) much lighter (about spinel red) and more broken, and the feathers of the back rather weakly dusky centrally. The immature male also is clearly leucura, having the general body color darker gray (deep neutral gray) and the reddish areas on the crown, nape and auriculils a deeper red (about brazil red) than in a comparable immature male montana from Colorado, which is pale neutral gray with the reddish areas on the head lighter (about nepal red). The two old birds are large in size, with the wing (117 mm. in both) larger than Ridgway’s (Bull. 50, U. S. Nat. Mus., p. 61) average (114 mm.) for leucura, but well within his maximum (121.9 mm.), and the tail is very long (96 mm. and 99 mm.), much longer than Ridgway’s average (86.9 mm.) and even exceeding his maximum (93.2 mm.). However, Oberholser (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., xxvii, p. 54) gives a range in tail length of from 95 to 99 mm., with an average of 96.8 mm., for a series of five leucura males from Quebec, so our birds are evidently within the range of the subspecies. They run too small for average montana (121.9 mm.) in length of wing, though large enough in length of tail for average montana (96.3 mm.). They show no close approach, either in the color of the gray parts, or the size and shape of the bill (culmen, 15 mm.; depth of bill at base, 11-12 mm.; width of maxilla at base 9.5-9.8 mm.) to the shorter and broader-billed Alaska Pine Grosbeak (P. e. alascensis) (which averages: culmen, 14.5 mm.; depth of bill, 12.2 mm.; and width of maxilla at base
The feeding movements of the Pine Grosbeaks among the tree branches were quite parrot-like. They moved sidewise a great deal, and progressed from twig to twig with short hops, staying close to the twigs. When they started to fly, their movement was again to the side, with wings beating rapidly. Their short, thick bills seemed possessed of great strength. They were never shy, but always were very restless, usually feeding at one place only a short time. The only times they were seen to be quiet were when on several occasions for a time they fluffed out their feathers and sunned themselves. The weather during their stay was dry, with plenty of sunshine, cool mornings and evenings but warm at mid-day — the Nebraska late autumn at its best.

On December 1, Mr. Swenk sent the stomachs of two of the specimens taken by him to the Bureau of Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., and on December 9 Mr. W. L. McAtee, in charge of the Food Habits Research, reported on an analysis made of their contents by Mr. Leon H. Kelso on December 8. His report may be summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Condition of stomach</th>
<th>% full</th>
<th>% full</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Blackberry or Raspberry (Rubus sp.), seed</td>
<td>trace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dogwood (Cornus stolonifera or Cornus sp.), frag'ts 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>seed</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ash (Fraxinus sp.), fragments of 12 seeds</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honeysuckle (Lonicera sp. near xylosteum), frag'ts about 30 seeds</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wolfberry (Symphoricarpus occidentalis), 4 seeds</td>
<td>trace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Austrian pine (Pinus austriaca), small buds</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Total vegetable matter</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total animal matter</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gravel, etc.</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pine Grosbeaks at Hastings, Adams County.—On October 30, 1932, Mrs. C. A. Heartwell, of the Brookings Bird Club, noted a lone Pine Grosbeak feeding in her yard. On November 2 following (not November 3 as given in L.O.I. No. 68, p. 4), Mrs. D. P. Jones, also of the Brookings Bird Club, discovered a Pine Grosbeak feeding in her yard. A number of the Brookings Bird Club members gathered at the D. P. Jones residence to observe the bird as it was feeding there on the rose hips. It would dig out the seeds, leaving most of the outer fleshy portion uneaten. On November 14 and 15, the bird was seen by Mrs. J. D. Fuller and many others, feeding on snowberries at the Junior High School grounds. Evidently in all instances the same individual was concerned. It was in the dull juvenile or female plumage, and at all times was unafraid, not paying the slightest attention to the scores of school children that were passing close by.

Between November 15 and 24, other Pine Grosbeaks appeared, until by the latter date there was a small flock of seven of them. Later another appeared, making eight in all, three of which had the red coloring of the old male birds. The grosbeaks were seen almost daily in the yard. Mrs. R. J. Peterson, which they made their headquarters, until in the late afternoon of December 7, when the drop in temperature preceding the stormy period of December 8 to 18 came. Mrs. Peterson states that their food supply had become about exhausted in her yard by December
7. They had fed on hackberry berries, ash seeds, coralberries, snowberries, bittersweet berries and rose hips. Their preference seemed to be for the hackberry berries and ash seeds. She watched the birds eating tree buds, and also stripping tiny pieces of bark, which they seemed to eat, from the trees. She kept water in a pan, and when other birds approached the pan when the grosbeaks were drinking they would make a hissing sound very much like that of a cat. They were always unafraid of her, and would remain very near when she brought out the water. She relates that one morning, not having put out the fresh water as early as usual, one of the thirsty grosbeaks pecked or bored a hole through the ice in the top of the pan.

On December 19, with the return of warmer weather, Mrs. A. H. Staley definitely noted one Pine Grosbeak in the dull plumage near her home. She thinks there were others in the tree, along with some English Sparrows.—Mrs. A. H. Jones, Hastings, Nebr.

Pine Grosbeaks at Hastings in January.—Late on the afternoon of January 2, 1933, I saw four Pine Grosbeaks in a boxelder tree, eating the buds, along the boulevard just west of Elm Avenue at Heartwell Park in Hastings. They were very tame, and I watched them feeding at a distance of only about five feet for several minutes, noting their coloration, large bills and characteristic manner of feeding.—Eleanor Brookings, Hastings, Nebr.

Pine Grosbeaks at Wayne, Wayne County.—On November 15 and 16, 1932, my brother-in-law, Mr. J. Woodward Jones of Wayne, and Professor Tead of Wayne Normal School, noted some Pine Grosbeaks feeding on drupes of the high-bush cranberry in the vicinity of Wayne.—Mrs. George O. Smith, Lincoln, Nebr.

Pine Grosbeaks at Nelson, Nuckolls County.—On November 20, 1932, I saw seven Pine Grosbeaks in and under a Douglas Fir tree in my yard here. They were all in the dull plumage of the immature or female bird, except for one individual, which had the red coloring of the adult male. They were very friendly. The next day they were gone, and they have not since been seen.—Miss Ruth H. Mauck, Nelson, Nebr.

Pine Grosbeaks at Omaha, Douglas County.—On the afternoon of Christmas Day, December 25, 1932, while making a bird census in Forest Lawn Cemetery at Omaha, we saw five Pine Grosbeaks.—Miss Emma Ellsworth and Miss Mary Ellsworth, Omaha, Nebr.

A Recent Nebraska Record of the Oldsquaw Duck.—On October 31, 1932, Mr. W. G. Jenkins, of Wahoo, killed an Oldsquaw Duck (Clangula hyemalis) on the Oak Creek bottoms near Ceresco, Saunders County, and brought it in to Mr. Arthur Anderson of Wahoo to be mounted. The mounted bird is now in the possession of Saun-
del's County Highway Commissioner Frank E. Tracy of Wahoo. This record was written up, and a picture of the mounted bird was shown, in the Lincoln Sunday Journal-Star for November 20, 1932. As the accompanying photograph of the specimen shows, it is a fine male bird, with the elongated tail feathers complete and the crown pure white.—Miss MARY ST. MARTIN, Wahoo, Nebr.

The Correct Status of the Oldsquaw as a Nebraska Bird.—In the "Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska" (Bruner, Wolcott and Swenk, p. 26; 1904), the statement is made concerning the Old-squaw Duck (Clangula hyemalis) that in Nebraska it is "a regular, but not common winter visitor, specimens being taken every season in the vicinity of Omaha". In 1915 I called it an "uncommon winter visitor", and in 1919 and 1920 "a common winter visitor" (Nebraska Blue Book, 1915, p. 837; 1918, p. 384; 1920, p. 466). A critical re-examination of the actual records for this species in Nebraska seems to indicate that it is neither a "regular" nor a "common" winter visitor; and that while there are more records from the Omaha vicinity than from any other one place in the state, these hardly justify the statement that specimens are taken there "every season".

This duck breeds on the Arctic coasts, and winters commonly coastwise south on the Atlantic to North Carolina and on the Pacific to Washington (more rarely to Florida and southern California). In the interior it winters abundantly south to the Great Lakes, but seems to be irregular and uncommon or rare everywhere to the southward and westward of that region. Aside from the Nebraska records, it has been reported in the interior, away from the Great Lakes, from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Louisiana and Texas, for the most part with only a single record from each of these states.

The reported records from Omaha vicinity, up to 1932, seem to be eight in number, as follows: Thomas Say found it at Engineer Cantonment, near the present Fort Calhoun in Washington County, in the winter of 1819-20, and recorded it under the name of "Long-tailed Duck (Anas glacialis)"); (Long's Exp., i, p. 267; 1823). L. Bruner found a specimen shot on a lake near Blair, also in Washington County, for sale in the Omaha market in the early 1890's (Some Notes on Nebraska Birds, p. 65; 1896). J. E. Wallace recorded two specimens shot on Carter Lake ("Cut-off Lake") near Omaha, December 8, 1900, by a local hunter, who brought the heads to him to identify (Proc. N. O. U., ii, p. 97; also iii, p. 85). Dr. C. A. Mitchell identified one on Carter Lake, near Omaha, April 19, 1928 (L. O. I. No. 31, p. 3). A Mr. Rose shot a fine male near Omaha on November 2, 1931, which was mounted by Karl Schwarz, the Omaha taxidermist. Another specimen, a female, was shot on the Missouri River five miles east of Tekamah, Burt County, on November 2, 1931, by a Mr. Falk of 5304 North 9th Street, Omaha, and also mounted by Mr. Schwarz, this specimen being now in my collection. Finally, on October 18, 1932, Mr. W. Wood of Council Bluffs, Iowa, shot a fine male which was mounted by Mr. Schwarz. J. S. Trostler, who kept an accurate account of the birds seen in the Omaha vicinity during the 1890's and early 1900's, has left no Nebraska record of this species.

Aside from the Missouri River records above given, the Old-squaw has been noted once each at Neligh, Lincoln, Long Pine and Kearney. Near Neligh, Antelope County, Merrit Cary shot a female in October 1898 (Proc. N. O. U., i, p. 22; 1901). H. B. Lowry saw a pair (male and female) on Capital Beach, near Lincoln, on April 16, 1911. Will C. Smith shot an immature female near Long Pine, Brown County, on November 22, 1912, and this specimen is now in his collection. C. A. Black shot a
female on the Platte River near Kearney, Buffalo County, on November 16, 1924; this specimen now being No. 3089 in the A. M. Brooking collection at Hastings. The reports of fifty Oldsquaws seen on March 21, and of seven seen on April 4, 1930, at Bobby Miles Lake, near Antioch, Sheridan County, by F. J. Keller (L.O. I. No. 49, p. 4, and 50, p. 4) are almost certainly misidentifications.

It seems obvious that we properly must regard the Oldsquaw as an uncommon and irregular visitor in the late fall in the Missouri River region, and a rare straggler in the remainder of Nebraska.—MYRON H. SWENK, Lincoln, Nebr.

A Definite Nebraska Record for the Black Gyrfalcon.—While engaged in the reclassification of the collections of birds in the Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, a Nebraska specimen of the Black Gyrfalcon (Falco rusticolus obsoletus Gmelin) was noticed, which, upon subsequent investigation, proved to be unrecorded for the state.

This specimen, a juvenile female, No. 17469 in the Iowa Museum of Natural History collection, was formerly in the D. H. Talbot collection and it was secured by one of his collectors, Sanford Brown, at Elk Creek, Johnson County, Nebraska, on February 23, 1885. The bird was skinned and made into a specimen by Mary Scott, who noted these additional data on the field label: "Length, 22½%; extent, 47%; wing, 16½%; tail, 10½%." Measurements in inches recently taken of the skin are: Wing, 16.1; tail, 9.0. The tip of the tail is noticeably worn. The wing formula is 2-3-1-4. The specimen is in fairly good condition, though a little soiled around the face and with a break in the skin of the neck.

The back and tail of this bird are hair brown (of Ridgway), the feathers narrowly paler on the edges, the tertials, greater coverts, and scapulars with a few minute irregularly shaped spots of creamy-white. Several fresh feathers in the scapulars are of a mouse gray, with two pale creamy cross-bars on either web. The two nuchal "spots" are whitish, the feathers each having a black linear streak. The head is slightly darker than the back, and each feather of the crown is dark brown with lighter margins. The throat is whitish and unmarked; the "mustache" marks are only slightly noticeable; the underparts are white with light brown longitudinal streaks along the shaft, broadest at the tip of each feather. A few new feathers on either side of the breast have a round black spot near the tip. The tibial flags are white, heavily cross-barred with brown, but the under-tail-coverts are definitely pure white, with only a narrow line of brown along the feather shafts. This streak is confined to the rhachis for the basal two-thirds of the feather's length, widening to about 1 mm. on the terminal third. The two central rectrices are lightly marked with nine whitish cross-bars across the center of each web. The two outer rectrices are practically unmarked on the outer webs, but with broad whitish bars on the inner webs nearly reaching the shaft.

This bird resembles very closely the right hand specimen in Fig. 6 on page 213 of Mr. Walter Koelz's article in the Wilson Bulletin "On a Collection of Gyrfalcons From Greenland" (xli, pp. 207-219, 1929). This figure is of a juvenile female specimen of "Falco rusticolus rusticolus", but appears to be identical with the Nebraska specimen in the markings of head, back, tail, and underparts.

Professor Swenk wrote me November 14, 1932, that this specimen constituted the first definite record of the gyrfalcon for the state. There are, however, records of this species from Minnesota, South Dakota and Kansas.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa.

(Editor's Note.—The circumpolar Gyrfalcon, the largest and most powerful species of falcon found in North America, occurs more or less
commonly during the breeding season, in one or another of its several intergrading forms or geographical races, at high altitudes from Alaska along the Arctic coasts to Greenland and Labrador. After the young become fledged, in August, the birds wander far in search of the ptarmigan, hares and waterfowl which constitute their prey, and occasionally straggle south as far as the northern United States.

As Mr. DuMont has above stated, some form or other of the gyrfalcon has definitely been recorded, on the basis of specimens taken, from Minnesota (Minneapolis, winter of 1874; P. L. Hatch; Madison, December 11, 1894; Albert Lano), South Dakota (Vermillion, October 21, 1880; G. S. Ageorges; Miner County, two specimens, W. H. Over) and Kansas (Manhattan, December 1, 1886; C. P. Blachly). It has also been recorded from Washington, Montana (Collins, January 8, 1912: A. A. Saunders), North Dakota (Grafton, October 7, 1908; H. V. Williams; Hazen, March, 1919, two specimens, Russell Reid), Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine.

Prof. Lawrence Bruner had previously recorded the "Gyrfalcon (Falco rusticulus gyrfalco)" from West Point and Norfolk, Nebraska (Some Notes on Nebraska Birds in: Report of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society for 1896, p. 93). However, these were both sight records, and one of them is very very questionable. The West Point record was based on a lone individual seen "in winter" during the 1880's by Bruner himself, but not collected; this probably being a correct identification. The Norfolk record was simply reported to Bruner, and is very doubtful. Thus Mr. DuMont's record is the first definite one for Nebraska.

Some comment on the subspecific identification of this bird may be in order. As the fourth edition of the A.O.U. Check-List (1931) states, the exact systematic status of the geographic forms of the Gyrfalcon is still undetermined. There seems now to be a substantial agreement, however, that but a single species is concerned. In the third edition of the Check-List (1910) F. islandus Brunn., described from Iceland, was recognized as a distinct species, and assigned also to Greenland, while F. rusticulus Linn. was represented in North America by three races—F. r. rusticulus Linn., of Arctic Europe and North America from southern Greenland to Alaska, F. r. gyrfalco Linn. also of Arctic Europe, as well as Franz Joseph Land, northern Greenland and Ellesmere Land, and F. r. obsoletus Gm. of Ungava.

In 1915 Dr. Ernst Hartert (Novitiae Zoologicae, xii, pp. 167-185) synonymized F. r. gyrfalco Linn. (1758, p. 91) with F. r. rusticulus Linn. (1758, p. 88), and assigned this subspecies to northern Europe, from Scandinavia to northern Russia. F. r. islandus Brunn. was reduced to a subspecies of F. rusticulus, and assigned to Iceland. The Greenland and other Arctic American birds that had been recorded as F. r. islandus, F. r. rusticulus and F. r. gyrfalco were all assigned to F. r. candidans Gmelin (1758, p. 276), inhabiting Greenland and Arctic America, while the Gyrfalcons breeding in Labrador were referred to F. r. obsoletus. The Siberian Gyrfalcons were referred to F. r. uralsensis Sewertzov and Menzbier.

In 1922 Mr. Kirke Swann (Bulletin British Ornithologists’ Club, xlii, p. 67) described F. r. alascanus as a new subspecies from Norton Sound, western Alaska. He also regarded F. r. obsoletus as merely a melanistic form of F. r. candidans.

In 1929, however, Mr. Walter Koelz (loc. cit.) reporting on a fine series of 81 Gyrfalcons from Greenland, shed considerable light upon the puzzle. From a study of this series he concluded that the breeding birds of north Greenland, on the west coast as far south as latitude 76°...
and on the east coast probably as far south or farther, are the white F. r. candicans, while from these points south the breeding birds are the gray F. r. islandus, described from Iceland. During the winter wandering candicans birds occur over the whole west Greenland coast, along with islandus, and there are also a few dark individuals on the southwestern coast during the winter, which may be obsoletus wanderers from farther west.

In the fourth edition of the Check-List, F. r. candicans includes not only the white Gyrfalcons resident on the north Greenland coasts, but probably also those resident in eastern high Arctic America, Spitzbergen and Franz Joseph Land, which is territory assigned to F. r. gyrfalco in the third edition; while F. r. obsoletus includes not only the very dark Gyrfalcons resident in Labrador, but also those resident in Arctic America northwest to northern Alaska that in the third edition were referred to as F. r. rusticolus. The Greenland birds are in the fourth edition all regarded as F. r. candicans, which is assumed to have three color phases, a white one (typical candicans) and two darker ones, the latter corresponding to the birds called islandus and rusticolus (or obsoletus) by Koelz. It would seem a logical step to follow Koelz completely, by regarding the white breeding birds of North Greenland as the White Gyrfalcon (candicans), the paler gray form of southern Greenland as the Gray Gyrfalcon (islandus), and the dark winter birds of southwestern Greenland as wandering Black Gyrfalcons (obsoletus), which occupies the region thence westward to Alaska, and to which the Nebraska specimen is referred. The birds of the Bering Sea coast of Alaska, described as alasansis by Swann, are synonymized with the Asiatic Gyrfalcon, uralensis, in the last Check-List.

The Ancient Murrelet Wanders to Nebraska.—On October 27, 1929, while hunting along the Missouri River five miles east of Tekamah, Burt County, Mr. Max Salzman shot what he thought was a teal duck, as it was flying by downstream. When the bird was retrieved it was seen to be an "odd duck", and so was turned over to Mr. William Falk of 2025 North 19th Street, Omaha, who had it mounted by Karl Schwarz, the Omaha taxidermist. Mr. Schwarz identified the bird as a Dovekie, and it was so referred to by me in a brief note in Letter of Information No. 45, p. 3, on the authority of Mr. A. M. Brooking, who early in November of 1929 had learned through Mr. Schwarz that a specimen of small auk, thought to have been a Dovekie, had recently been killed "north of Omaha by a Mr. Falk", and so reported to me under date of November 15. No further information being available from Mr. Schwarz, on July 29, 1932, I located and interviewed Mr. Falk, who gave me the exact data cited above, and showed me the mounted bird. Recognizing from the bill that the specimen was not a Dovekie, and finding Mr. Falk at the moment in a humor to dispose of it, I purchased it, and on closer subsequent study identified it with certainty as an Ancient Murrelet (Synthliboramphus antiquus), in the winter plumage of the immature bird, sex unknown. The mounted bird measures in millimeters: Length, 268; wing, 139; tail, 41; tarsus, 24; culmen, 14; depth of bill, 6.5.

This little auk is native to the coasts and islands of the North Pacific Ocean, breeding from Washington northwest to Kodiak Island and the Aleutians, and from Kamtschatka south to northern Japan. On the American side it drifts south in the fall and winter on the open ocean to the Pacific Coast from British Columbia to Lower California, but is only an accidental wanderer in the interior. There seem to be, in fact, only six known previous records of its occurrence in interior North America, those being at Lake Koskonong, Wisconsin, in late October, 1882 (Kumlien); at Lake Ontario, near Toronto, Ontario, November 18, 1901, and
at Lake Erie, on the Canadian shore seven miles from Buffalo, New York, November 15, 1908 (Fleming); at Lake Hook, McLeod County, Minnesota, November 5, 1905 (Roberts); and in Idaho and southern Quebec (A.O.U. Check-List, Fourth Edition). The Nebraska record is, therefore, of more than local interest.—MYRON H. SWENK, Lincoln, Nebr.

A Late Record of the Indigo Bunting.—On October 23, 1932, near Western, Saline County, Nebraska, I collected an immature male Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea). This bird is abnormal in that the mandibles, especially the upper one, are greatly deformed. This deformity is of such a nature almost to obliterate the crushing power of the mandibles. In addition each foot had a mud-ball several millimeters in diameter attached to the grasping surface. However, this bird was in good flesh, and even somewhat fat. No doubt these impediments account largely for the lateness of this record.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.

A Second Record of the European Starling in Nebraska.—In Letter of Information No. 66, pp. 12-13, issued June 25, 1932, the European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris) was first placed on record as a Nebraska bird. It was there recorded that in the spring of 1932 two pairs of this imported species appeared at the farm of Mr. C. R. Wiegers, near Western, in southern Saline County, some thirty miles north of the Kansas line, and that at least one of these pairs bred there that year. The nesting was in the peak of the barn, above the track used for taking in hay. A cat is known to have caught one of the young birds and another bird was killed and brought in to the Department of Zoology at the University on May 18, this specimen having been preserved in alcohol by Mr. G. E. Hudson of that Department. Mr. Hudson made a trip to Western to collect the parent birds, but they were so shy that he was unable to do so. The interest of Mr. John L. Morrison of Western was then enlisted, and, after further futile efforts to collect the birds with a shot gun, he used a rifle and killed the adult male with it on June 7. This specimen was brought to Lincoln and preserved as a study skin by M. H. Swenk.

Now comes the information that a pair of these birds appeared at the farm of Mr. George F. Thiesen, Route 2, Lincoln, Nebraska, back in the summer of 1930. Mr. Thiesen's farm is seven miles northwest of Lincoln. In 1931 four of these birds, probably two pairs, appeared on this farm. They nested in the cupola of the barn. In 1932 quite a flock of Starlings appeared at Mr. Thiesen's farm, and it was then that he became keenly interested as to what these strange and increasing birds might be. He tried to trap some of them alive, but failed; so on the morning of November 29 one was shot and brought to the Museum of the University of Nebraska for identification. This specimen is being mounted as University of Nebraska Museum Accession No. "2-29-11-32."

From this it is evident that the European Starling has been in Nebraska since the summer of 1930, and that up to the present time it has bred at two places in the state, which are approximately forty miles apart.—MYRON H. SWENK, Lincoln, Nebr.

Another Nebraska Record of the European Starling.—Since this is the first year that the European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris) has been definitely recorded from Nebraska, additional records are in order. On December 23, 1932, I saw a Starling along Salt Creek, about three miles north of Lincoln, Nebraska. This bird was observed both sitting and in flight, and the nearest approach was to within about fifty yards. It was very shy. For several years I have been acquainted with this species in the eastern states, where it is abundant.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Eighteen years ago the Nebraska Ornithologists Union, after having published six volumes of printed proceedings during the preceding fifteen years (1900-1915), dropped independent publication, and for nine years (1916-1924) the Wilson Bulletin was its official organ. Then eight years ago (1925) it began independently publishing the mimeographed Letter of Information, of which sixty-eight issues, totalling 314 pages, had been sent out up to the close of 1932. Now, with the beginning of 1933, it resumes independent publication with this printed official journal, the Nebraska Bird Review, which for the present will be issued quarterly, in January, April, July and October. We hope you will like it.

Probably one of the first things that attracted your attention in connection with this first issue of the Nebraska Bird Review was the figure of the Western Burrowing Owl on the front cover page, in its characteristic prairie dog town habitat. The figure used is one that was drawn nearly forty years ago by J. L. Ridgway for Dr. A. K. Fisher's paper on the "Hawks and Owls as Related to the Farmer", published in the Yearbook for 1894 (p. 226) of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The general appropriateness of using an illustration of this common and typical bird of the western plains on the cover of a publication devoted to Nebraska ornithology is obvious. In fact, just a few years back the Western Burrowing Owl was suggested, and with good reasons, as a proper candidate for selection as the state bird of Nebraska. But there is an additional propriety, not so well known, in our selection of this species for our cover illustration in that it was first made known to science in 1825 from specimens taken by the Major Long Expedition in June, 1820, along the Platte River in central Nebraska.

Without doubt the outstanding ornithological event of the late fall and early winter of 1932 in Nebraska was the invasion of the eastern half of the state by individuals and flocks of the Pine Grosbeak. Such were noted at Hastings, Lincoln, Wayne, Nelson and Omaha, and undoubtedly there were others that did not come to the attention of Nebraska bird observers. From the minute (subspecific) characters of these birds it may rather clearly be deduced that these visitors did not come to us from either the west or the northwest, but from the north or northeast, quite possibly from the coniferous forests somewhere in the western Hudson Bay region. It would be interesting to know the exact underlying causes of this unusual migration, and just how far to the south and west it extended. Another unusual bird visitor during the fall and early winter just past was the Old-squaw duck, as is mentioned among the General Notes in this issue.

The winter of 1932-33 in Nebraska bids fair to go down into history as an "open" one. Taking Lincoln temperatures as a criterion, November began with normal or warmer weather on the 2nd to the 7th, fol-
followed by a moderately cold spell from the 8th to the 19th, except for one warm day (the 13th), then decidedly warm again from November 20 to December 5, during which period the mean temperature ranged from ten to seventeen degrees above normal, except on two days (November 21 and 26) when it was slightly below normal. Cooler weather on December 6 was followed by a cold wave from the 8th to the 19th, with 6.8 inches of snowfall at Lincoln on the 8th to the 11th. Then came abruptly warmer weather on December 20, which continued without interruption, at from normal to as high as twenty-five degrees above normal, until into mid-January, the 6th of January having been the warmest day of that date ever recorded at either Omaha or Lincoln. As a result, the Christmas and New Year bird censuses were conducted this year under unusually warm weather conditions. Many kinds of birds are lingering in Nebraska this winter, and those forced southward or into the deeper woods by the cold wave of December 8 to 19 were again in evidence Christmas day. An analysis of the censuses from Omaha, Fremont, Lincoln, Fairbury and Hastings given on other pages of this number of the Review shows that between December 25 and January 2, inclusive, a composite list of forty-seven species of birds was secured by the several parties.

For several summers past one of our N. O. U. members, Mr. J. E. Stipsky of Hooper, has been locating all of the birds' nests that he could find in his neighborhood, and by visiting them periodically determining those in which the brood of young was reared successfully, and also trying to determine the cause where tragedy visited the nest. Paraphenetically we may state that he finds the percent of successful nestings startlingly small, due to the activity of a number of destructive agents, and in a future number of this Review we hope to be able to publish his findings in some detail. In transmitting his report for 1932, the middle of December, Mr. Stipsky comments: "I am afraid that next summer there will not be many birds around my locality, for everywhere they are cutting down the trees and cleaning up most of the shrubbery." This observation is typical of what any bird lover could report at this time for any part of eastern and southern Nebraska. Because of the unemployment, low farm commodity prices and the scarcity of circulating money during the depression, thousands of Nebraska homes that ordinarily have burned coal are being heated with wood this winter. Even some churches and other public buildings are burning wood. It has been estimated that two million dollars worth of Nebraska timber will be used for fuel before spring. This means that a heavy toll is being taken of the fine old cottonwoods, as well as the ash, boxelder and willow trees fringing our prairie streams, while old groves planted back in the days of pioneer Nebraska are being thinned out heavily or even entirely cut away; and as Mr. Stipsky states, much of the shrubbery goes with the trees. The dominant importance of human comfort is indisputable, and no doubt much of this sacrificing of trees is unfortunately necessary and justifiable under the prevailing economic conditions; yet there are real grounds for fear that in many localities and neighborhoods, under the prevailing psychology, tree cutting is being done ill-advisedly, indiscriminately or excessively. Trees often have other more important values than their value as fuel, not the least of which is their indispensable value as a place for our Nebraska birds to nest, feed and rest. It takes a generation or more to grow a fine, majestic tree. If this super-enthusiasm for tree cutting is not to be reflected in a permanent injury to the basic biotic economy of our state, there should next spring be displayed an equal enthusiasm for the planting of thousands of young trees, to replace the thousands that are being cut down this winter.
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY CENSUSES

Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.—December 25; 3:45 P. M. to 5:00 P. M. at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Long-eared Owl, 1; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 1; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Pine Grosbeak, 5; and Eastern Slate-colored Junco, about 300. Total 7 species, 320 individuals.—Misses Emma and Mary Ellsworth.

Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.—December 31; 1:20 P. M. to 4:20 P. M. at Fontenelle Forest Reserve. American Golden-eye, 11; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 6; Northern Blue Jay, 1; Eastern Crow, 25; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 25; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Eastern Common Bluebird, 2; Eastern Cardinal, 1; Eastern American Goldfinch, 4; and Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 25. Total, 13 species, 116 individuals.—L. O. Horsky.

Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.—January 2; 12:40 P. M. to 2:40 P. M. in Elmwood Park, 3:00 P. M. to 3:30 P. M. in Hanscom Park. Long-eared Owl, 3 (Elmwood Park); Red-headed Woodpecker, 2 (Hanscom Park); Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 4 (2 each in Elmwood and Hanscom Parks); Northern Downy Woodpecker, 10 (6 in Elmwood and 4 in Hanscom Park); Eastern Crow, 19 (Elmwood Park); Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 15 (Elmwood Park); Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 12 (6 each in Elmwood and Hanscom Parks); Eastern Brown Creeper, 2 (Elmwood Park); Northern Pine Siskin, 6 (Elmwood Park); and Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 50 (Elmwood Park). Total, 10 species, 123 individuals.—L. O. Horsky.

Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska.—December 27; 8:30 A. M. to 15:00 M. and 1:30 P. M. to 4:00 P. M.; clear, patches of snow; ground frozen at start and soft at close; temperature 25° at start, 45° at return. Cemetery, MacClean's Island, Hormel's Island, country roads and along the Platte River. Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Eastern Screech Owl, 1; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 8; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 8; (Prairie?) Horned Lark, 3; Northern Blue Jay, 1; Eastern Crow, 15; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Eastern Brown Creeper, 9; Eastern Robin, 7; Eastern Common Bluebird, 9; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 15; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Eastern Cardinal, 10 (7 males and 3 females); Northern Pine Siskin, 32 Females; Eastern American Goldfinch, 18; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 50; Harris Sparrow, 2; and Tree Sparrow, 300. Total, 23 species, 679 individuals.—MRS. LILY RUEGG BUTTON.

Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.—December 25; all day. Wyuka Cemetery and vicinity, and about College of Agriculture campus. Common Red-shafted Flicker, 1; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Blue Jay, 2; Eastern Crow, 1; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Eastern Brown Creeper, 2; Eastern Cardinal, 2 (male and female); Eastern American Goldfinch, 1; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, several; and Tree Sparrow, several. Total, 11 species.—MRS. LILY RUEGG BUTTON.

Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska.—December 23; Clear, slight snow, light southerly wind, temperature 24° to 40°. Observers in two groups, one on prairie and along thickets near small creek, the other in timber along Rose Creek. Six miles and return by automobile, three miles on foot. Marsh Hawk, 2; Eastern Bob-white, 45 (in 3 coveys); Ring-necked Common Pheasant, 1 (male); Eastern Screech Owl, 1; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Eastern
HOLIDAY BIRD CENSUSES

Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 32; Prairie Horned Lark, about 150 (3 flocks); Eastern Crow, 18; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 168 (estimated); Tufted Titmouse, 6; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Eastern Common Bluebird, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; Eastern Cardinal, 7; Eastern American Goldfinch, 9; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 95; Harris Sparrow, about 180; and Tree Sparrow, 250 (estimated). Total, 20 species, 975 individuals.—Mrs. R. D. Roode, Mrs. C. M. Bogardus, Mrs. C. B. Callaway and Miss Susie Callaway.

Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska.—January 1; Adjoining Callaway and Richardson farms. Marsh Hawk, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Prairie Horned Lark, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Cardinal, Eastern American Goldfinch (heard), Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Harris Sparrow, Tree Sparrow and Song Sparrow (heard). Total, 16 species.—Mrs. Charles Richardson and Miss Susie Callaway.


Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska.—December 25; 10:15 A. M. to 2:45 P. M.; temperature at start 25°. Along the Little Blue River. Common Mallard, 7; Green-winged Teal, 4; Marsh Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Common Pheasant, 1; Eastern Belted Kingfisher, 1; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 10; (Saskatchewan ?) Horned Lark, about 175; Eastern Crow, thousands; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 50; Eastern Brown Creeper, 1; Eastern Winter Wren, 1; Eastern Robin, 1; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Eastern Cardinal (2 males and 1 female), 3; Eastern American Goldfinch, 17; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 17; Harris Sparrow, 3; Tree Sparrow, 78; Song Sparrow, 1; and Lapland Longspur, 65. Total 20 species, 442 individuals plus thousands of Eastern Crows.—Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Brooking, Mrs. A. J. Fuller, Mrs. A. H. Staley, Mrs. Carlyle Stylla, Mrs. Rollie, Mrs. Woodworth, Mrs. A. M. Jones and Mrs. A. H. Jones.

Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska.—December 30; chilly northwest wind. Along Little Blue River from Pauline to Spring Ranch vicinity. Common Mallard (flocks of 4 and 13), Marsh Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Killdeer (several seen and heard), Western Mourning Dove, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, (Saskatchewan ?) Horned Lark, Hoyt Horned Lark, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Brown Creeper, Eastern Robin (a good many in the dense thickets along river channel), Eastern Cardinal, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Harris Sparrow, and Tree Sparrow. Total, 19 species.—A. M. and Katherine S. Brooking.
Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska.—January 1. In addition to the commoner winter species, the Great Horned Owl, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Pine Siskin (2), and Shufeldt Oregon Junco were seen.—Miss MARIGARET DIEMER.

Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska.—January 2; 1:30 P. M. to 4:00 P. M. Hastings and vicinity with a radius of five miles. Sparrow Hawk (two of them), Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, (Saskatchewan?) Horned Lark, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Brown Creeper, Northern Shrike, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cardinal (pair in town), Pine Grosbeak (four), and Tree Sparrow. Total, 14 species.—Seven Members Of THE BROOKING BIRD CLUB.

Stratton, Hitchcock County, Nebraska.—December 29, 1932; along the Republican River just outside of town. A two hours' trip. Common Red-shafted Flicker, 3; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker; Northern Downy Woodpecker; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees, 2; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, numerous; Harris Sparrow, 1; and Tree Sparrow, several. Total, 8 species. During the first week in January, 5 Magpies, a flock of 25 or 30 (Saskatchewan?) Horned Larks and what was taken to be a Song Sparrow, were seen. Two Common Red-shafted Flickers were seen on January 9.—Miss FANNIE B. CROSS.

HERE AND THERE WITH THE N. O. U. MEMBERS

In Letter of Information No. 67, page 2, mention was made of a white (albino) Eastern Kingbird (or Arkansas Kingbird?) that was seen near the State Hospital west of Lincoln on July 2, 1932, by Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Corey. Miss Margaret Diemer of Hastings now reports that on August 14, 1932, she saw an Eastern Kingbird perched on a telephone wire just west of Hastings, and beside it was an albino that was almost pure white. She adds: “They flew away before I could do more than be sure that it was an albino, but as nearly as I could tell, the size and flight of the two birds were the same. It was unusually beautiful in flight.”

Miss Diemer made a bird census at the Kernan Lagoon on September 4, 1932, which was inadvertently omitted in the report on her summer and fall bird censuses at that place given in L. O. I. No. 67, pp. 3-4. On this date she saw many American Pintail Ducks, a few Common Mallards, and many teal, mostly Blue-winged Teal, but two were identified as Green-winged Teal, and there were probably more of the latter. Mr. Smith, who lives just south of the lagoon, reported to Miss Diemer that he had seen a White Pelican there several times during the period from August 15 to September 4. An American Duck Hawk (one of our rarest hawks) swooped down over the ducks, but failed to catch any. The shore birds noted by Miss Diemer on this date were six Black-bellied Plovers (five adults and one immature), fifty Northern Killdeers, six Lesser Yellowlegs, one Pectoral Sandpiper, twelve Least Sandpipers and six Semipalmated Sandpipers. At noon, a flock of about seventy-five sandpipers, at least as large as the Pectoral Sandpiper, and perhaps that species, left the lagoon to fly south. She noted also one American Bittern and three American Black-crowned Night Herons. Miss Diemer reports further that the hawk mentioned as frightening the flock of Blue-winged Teal ducks and the Avocet at Kernan Lagoon on September 10, 1932 (see L. O. I. No. 67, p. 3) was an American Duck Hawk. It again failed to catch any of the birds. On this date she saw again six Black-bellied Plovers, one an immature bird. These were not included in the previous report of the census of that date.
On October 2, 1932, Miss Diemer noted at Hastings the Spotted Sandpiper, Common Red-shafted Flicker, Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler, Arctic Spotted Towhee, Harris Sparrow and either the White-crowned or Gambel Sparrow. On October 16, at Nash's Corner, she noted Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Song Sparrow, Western Field Sparrow, Harris Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. In the second week in October, Mrs. C. A. Heartwell of the Brooking Bird Club saw a Red Crossbill, female or juvenile, in her yard at Hastings. It visited her place again on two subsequent dates. Mrs. A. H. Jones reports that on October 16 two Eastern Common Bluebirds were seen along the Platte River north of Hastings. She also reports that at about sundown on November 12, while she and Mr. Jones were returning to Hastings from Lincoln, a Greater Prairie Chicken was flushed from a field near the roadside just east of Crete. On November 17, a Song Sparrow and a shrike were noted near Hastings.

Your Secretary-Treasurer spent November 24 with Mr. A. M. Brooking of Hastings, driving southeast of that place along the Little Blue River in Adams, Clay and Nuckolls counties, visiting points along the Oregon Trail and noting the winter bird life. The birds seen on the trip were the Common Mallard, Marsh Hawk, American Rough-legged Hawk (several), Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Northern Downy Woodpecker, (Saskatchewan ?) Horned Lark (a few in two small groups), Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Townsend Solitaire, Eastern Brown Creeper, Northern Shrike, Western Meadowlark (a flock of 18 or 20), Eastern Cardinal, Red Crossbill (a flock of 20 or 25), Eastern Slate-colored Junco (several), Harris Sparrow (several), Tree Sparrow (many) and Lapland Longspur (several flocks). American Goldfinches were seen on December 1 by members of the Brooking Bird Club.

Under date of November 25, Miss Mollie A. Taylor reports on the birds observed nesting on or near her home at Battle Creek, Madison County, during 1932. Her list includes the Western Mourning Dove, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Robin, Western House Wren, Catbird, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Bronzed Grackle, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Eastern American Goldfinch. In May school boys reported Eastern Belted Kingfishers along Battle Creek south of town, and observed them catching fish eight or ten inches long. Mockingbirds (subsp. ?) were seen and heard singing on three occasions in May, but were not seen in the summer in 1932, though they have been seen in the summer near Battle Creek in previous years. A pair of (Northern ?) Maryland Yellow-throats lingered in the yard for almost a month, but did not stay through the summer. Miss Taylor comments on an unusual abundance of the Eastern Robins in 1932. The three following observations are extracted from her interesting letter:

"During the winter of 1931-32 some of the children gave me some old birds' nests. When school closed I brought them home and fastened them in some bushes over the bird bath. Soon after placing them there I noticed a blackbird that I identified as a Brewer Blackbird tearing one to pieces and taking the bits away. The Eastern Yellow Warblers and orioles finished the nests, carrying them all away bits at a time. One string became securely fastened, and the male oriole worked long and faithfully trying to release it. Finally he took it in his bill and swung back and forth some eighteen or twenty-four inches several times, but without success. I believe that was the smartest thing I ever saw a bird do."
“One of my little pupils gave me a wren house the day that school closed, and her father, a physician, happened along that evening and put it up. He said if I would put a little mirror over the door that I would have wrens in the box before I could get into the house. That was almost true, for immediately they began working and in due time hatched out young. It was amusing to see Mrs. Wren at times when she would come out of the house, taking a primp or two at herself before flying away for food.”

“We had a big boxelder tree in which many large ants were working. The Red-headed Woodpeckers spent much time there feasting upon the ants. We cut the tree down and made it into fire wood, and a number of sticks were stacked in the back yard. The Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers visit there almost every day, going over the wood pile.”

Miss Taylor reports that an American Barn Owl was recently caught near Battle Creek and was kept in confinement in the town for some time. She states that another was shot and killed at Emmet, Holt County, about November 12, by Harold Lindberg of that place, and that this specimen was mounted as a “rare” trophy. She reports a pair of Bronzed Grackles remaining about her home this year up to the middle of November, and also that an Eastern Robin and a pair of Northern Blue Jays were present up to the same time.

Miss Mary St. Martin of Wahoo reports that Mr. Arthur Anderson of that place has recently mounted an albino Eastern Crow that was shot near Cedar Bluffs in the same (Saunders) county. The bird is smoky white all over.

Mr. L. O. Horsky sends in the following notes on bird observations of himself and other members of the Omaha Nature Study Club for the months of October, November and December, 1932. The Misses Emma and Mary Ellisworth noted the first Eastern Slate-colored Junco on October 19. Mr. Horsky noted migrating Myrtle Warblers in Elmwood Park from October 16 to 23. Dr. C. A. Mitchell noted the Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet in Fontenelle Park during the latter part of October. On November 7, Mr. Horsky saw two Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers and one Eastern Robin on his home grounds. During the cold spell that began on November 8, and lasting until November 20, with only one day’s recession (on November 13), occurred the main flight of the Common Mallard along the Missouri River. Flights of geese were also reported during this period. At his home Mr. Horsky observed a flock of Eastern Cowbirds and a flock of Prairie Horned Larks on November 13. Three meadowlarks were noted by him at his home on November 18. On November 20, in the Fontenelle Reserve, Mr. Horsky noted an Eastern Belted Kingfisher, two Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers, one Red-bellied Woodpecker, six Northern Blue Jays, and two Tufted Titmice, while in Elmwood Park on the same day he noted an Eastern Brown Creeper. Two Long-eared Owls were seen in Elmwood Park by Mr. Horsky on December 3.

Eastern Robins remained in small numbers on the College of Agriculture campus at Lincoln until late in the fall. The last one was seen on November 26. Northern Blue Jays were present all through the late fall and early winter.

Under date of January 12, Misses Agness and Susie Callaway report that they saw an Eastern Robin and an Eastern Screech Owl at their farm home near Fairbury on January 8, and that Mrs. C. B. Callaway saw a Townsend Solitaire at Fairbury on January 10.
PUBLICATIONS OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION


Field Check-List of Nebraska Birds, pp. 1-4 (July, 1908).

Proceedings in the Wilson Bulletin: Vol. XXVIII, pp. 70-72 and 96-98 (June, 1916); Vol. XXIX, pp. 110-112 (June, 1917); Vol. XXX, pp. 61-63 (June, 1918); Vol. XXXI, pp. 67-69 (June, 1919); Vol. XXXII, pp. 69-71 (June, 1920); Vol. XXXIII, pp. 109-111 (June, 1921); Vol. XXXIV, pp. 121-123 (June, 1922); Vol. XXXV, pp. 102-105 (June, 1923); Vol. XXXVI, pp. 105-109 (June, 1924).

Letters of Information (mimeographed): No. 1, p. 1 (Jan. 1, 1925); No. 2, p. 1 (Feb. 1, 1925); No. 3, p. 1 (Mar. 1, 1925); No. 4, p. 1-2 (Apr. 1, 1925); No. 5, pp. 1-4 (May 1, 1925); No. 6, pp. 1-4 (May 15, 1925); No. 7, pp. 1-2 & 1-6 (July 1, 1925); No. 8, pp. 1-2 (Oct. 15, 1925); No. 9, pp. 1-2 (Nov. 1, 1925); No. 10, pp. 1-4 (Dec. 1, 1925); No. 11, pp. 1-4 (Jan. 15, 1926); No. 12, pp. 1-4 (Feb. 15, 1926); No. 13, pp. 1-4 (Mar. 1, 1926); No. 14, pp. 1-4 (Apr. 1, 1926); No. 15, pp. 1-4 (Apr. 20, 1926); No. 16, pp. 1-4 (May 5, 1926); No. 17, pp. 1-10 (July 15, 1926); No. 18, pp. 1-2 & 1-6 (Sept. 20, 1926); No. 19, pp. 1-6 (Jan. 15, 1927); No. 20, pp. 1-2 (Feb. 10, 1927); No. 21, pp. 1-3 (Apr. 10, 1927); No. 22, pp. 1-4 (May 5, 1927); No. 23, pp. 1-8 & 1-6 (July 1, 1927); No. 24, pp. 1-4 (Oct. 10, 1927); No. 25, pp. 1-4 (Nov. 15, 1927); No. 26, pp. 1-4 (Dec. 1, 1927); No. 27, pp. 1-2 (Jan. 1, 1928); No. 28, pp. 1-2 (Jan. 15, 1928); No. 29, pp. 1-4 (Mar. 1, 1928); No. 30, pp. 1-6 (Apr. 25, 1928); No. 31, pp. 1-4 (May 5, 1928); No. 32, pp. 1-10 (July 1, 1928); No. 33, pp. 1-4 & 1-6 (Sept. 20, 1928); No. 34, pp. 1-6 (Oct. 20, 1928); No. 35, pp. 1-2 (Dec. 1, 1928); No. 36, pp. 1-2 (Jan. 1, 1929); No. 37, pp. 1-2 (Feb. 1, 1929); No. 38, pp. 1-2 (Feb. 20, 1929); No. 39, pp. 1-4 (Mar. 10, 1929); No. 40, pp. 1-4 (Apr. 1, 1929); No. 41, pp. 1-2 (Apr. 20, 1929); No. 42, pp. 1-4 (May 6, 1929); No. 43, pp. 1-8 & 1-6 (June 5, 1929); No. 44, pp. 1-8 (Oct. 15, 1929); No. 45, pp. 1-4 (Dec. 1, 1929); No. 46, pp. 1-4 (Jan. 10, 1930); No. 47, pp. 1-4 (Feb. 10, 1930); No. 48, pp. 1-2 (Mar. 10, 1930); No. 49, pp. 1-4 (Apr. 1, 1930); No. 50, pp. 1-6 (May 1, 1930); No. 51, pp. 1-12 & 1-6 (June 10, 1930); No. 52, pp. 1-4 (Sept. 1, 1930); No. 53, pp. 1-4 (Oct. 6, 1930); No. 54, pp. 1-2 (Dec. 1, 1930); No. 55, pp. 1-2 (Jan. 15, 1931); No. 56, pp. 1-4 (Feb. 5, 1931); No. 57, pp. 1-4 (Apr. 10, 1931); No. 58, pp. 1-2 (Apr. 20, 1931); No. 59, pp. 1-4 (May 10, 1931); No. 60, pp. 1-10 & 1-6 (June 10, 1931); No. 61, pp. 1-4 (Oct. 20, 1931); No. 62, pp. 1-2 (Dec. 5, 1931); No. 63, pp. 1-4 (Jan. 10, 1932); No. 64, pp. 1-6 (Mar. 1, 1932); No. 65, pp. 1-6 (Apr. 1, 1932); No. 66, pp. 1-14 & 1-6 (June 25, 1932); No. 67, pp. 1-4 (Oct. 10, 1932); No. 68, pp. 1-4 (Nov. 15, 1932).
ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE
NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS’ UNION
Organized December 16, 1899

Retiring President

1899 Lincoln, December 16 ............. Lawrence Bruner
1901 Omaha, January 12 .................. I. S. Trostler
1902 Lincoln, February 1 .................. E. H. Barbour
1903 Lincoln, January 24 .................. J. M. Bates
1904 Lincoln, January 30 .................. F. H. Shoemaker
1905 Omaha, December 31 .................. R. H. Wolcott
1906 Lincoln, December 29 ............. Wilson Tout
1907 Lincoln, January 19 .................. S. R. Towne
1908 Bellevue, May 8 .................... M. H. Swenk
1909 Lincoln, May 14 .................... August Eiche
1910 Peru, April 29 ..................... H. B. Duncanson
1911 Lincoln, May 5 .................... Louis Sessions
1912 Lincoln, May 10 .................... H. B. Lowry
1913 Lincoln, May 9 ..................... D. C. Hilton
1914 Lincoln, May 15 .................... Lawrence Bruner
1915 Omaha, May 7 ..................... T. C. Stephens
1916 Omaha, May 5 ..................... R. W. Dawson
1917 Lincoln, May 4 ..................... R. H. Wolcott
1918 Omaha, May 10 .................... C. E. Mickel
1919 Hastings, May 9 ................... A. M. Brooking
1920 Lincoln, May 14 .................... C. A. Black
1921 Omaha, May 13 .................... H. B. Lowry
1922 Lincoln, May 19 .................... H. Hapeman
1923 Fairbury, May 11 ................... Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon
1924 Lincoln, May 9 ..................... R. H. Wolcott
1925 Superior, May 8 .................... R. H. Wolcott
1926 Omaha, May 14 ................... Mrs. C. W. McCaskill
1927 Hastings, May 13 ................... C. K. Hart
1928 Lincoln, May 11 .................... L. H. Watson
1929 Sioux City, Iowa, May 10 .... Mrs. A. H. Jones
1930 Omaha, May 16 .................. Miss Mary St. Martin
1931 Lincoln, May 15 .................... F. G. Collins
1932 Hastings, May 13 ................... L. O. Horsky
1933 Fairbury ......................... Miss Susie Callaway
1934 Omaha