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VOLUME XIX

JULY 1951

NUMBER 3

The Nebraska Bird Review



In Memoriam
Wilson Tout

*A Magazine of the Ornithology
of the Nebraska Region*

Published by the

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Founded 1899

The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

Published quarterly in January, April, July, and October by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, as its official journal.

Sent free as issued to all members who are not in arrears for dues. Subscriptions at Three Dollars and fifty cents per volume in the United States, and Three Dollars and seventy-five cents per volume in all other countries, payable in advance. Single numbers One Dollar each. All dues and subscriptions should be remitted to the Treasurer. Orders for back numbers should be sent to the Custodian.

All manuscripts for publication should be sent to the Editor.

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

Founded December 16, 1899

President.....Miss Doris B. Gates, 401 S. Ash, North Platte, Nebr.

Vice President.....Louis M. Moos, 2640 Ryons St., Lincoln, Nebr.

Corresponding Secretary..W. E. Eigsti, Hastings Museum, Hastings, Nebr.

Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Dwight Thomas, 2840 N. 56 St., Lincoln, Nebr.

Treasurer.....Mrs. F. J. Patton, Blue Springs, Nebr.

Custodian.....Miss Mary Louise Hanson, University of Nebraska
State Museum, Lincoln, Nebr.

Editor.....William F. Rapp, Jr., 1219 Ivy St., Crete, Nebr.

The Executive Committee is composed of the above officers and Adrian C. Fox, Box 1451, Lincoln, Nebr. and R. Allyn Moser, R. F. D. No. 1, Benson Station, Omaha 4, Nebr.

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THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region
Published by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

VOLUME XIX

JULY 1951

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Wilson Tout, 1876-1951

Doris B. Gates

"It just happened that I spent a part of Sunday afternoon on the Union Pacific property east of the city...." As he wrote it in his weekly column in the Lincoln County Tribune many people knew Wilson Tout. Almost every week, at least once, he spent some time quietly walking over some well known wooded area or prairie watching for birds which he carefully reported as to kinds, nests, and activities. The results of these trips and information gathered from reliable observers were accumulated and published in *Lincoln County Birds*, 1947. It begins: "I arrived in Lincoln county June 1, 1907.... I recorded two birds the first day I was here and have been making records continuously ever since." And thus he had until the day of his illness which ended in death four days later, June 18, 1951.

His notes have been published in *The Nebraska Bird Review* rather regularly throughout his life time in Lincoln county. He has attended a majority of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union meetings, and many times has read papers or in other ways has taken active part in the business of the NOU. At one time he was president (1906-1907). He was the only charter member to remain active in recent years.

Mr. Tout was the personification of orderliness. His study was incredible! There were shelves and shelves of books pertaining largely to topics of natural science. His periodicals were neatly arranged in order and most volumes were enclosed in folded cardboard. Boxes from typewriting paper were neatly arranged and labeled as to contents. There were 19 jars, all the same size, arranged on the top shelf of his study each containing certain sized nails, screws and other related articles. If anyone asked him for any item which he had, he could get it in a matter of moments.

Mr. Tout was thorough as a student, helpful and friendly. His manner was gentle. He was willing to offer advice and suggestions but never with sarcasm or harsh criticism. There was no place for boastfulness in his nature; he sought no personal recognition. He was most deliberate, his answer coming often some moments after a question was put to him. His sparkling eyes, typically wrinkled forehead and easy chuckle denoted a sensitive wit. Often happenings brought to his mind something in his own experiences or he had an appropriate story to tell. In recent weeks he loved to tell how he

finally found a concrete answer to "What good is bird watching?" While watching for birds in his backyard recently he discovered a fire on a neighbor's roof and turned in the alarm.

Wilson Tout was born May 18, 1876 in Sutton, Nebraska. He attended the schools of York and the University of Nebraska where he became well acquainted with Lawrence Bruner, an outstanding ornithologist.

From the University, he went into teaching, a profession in which he remained until 1920. Most of this time he was Superintendent of Schools in North Platte. One of his teachers recently commented on his friendly interest in her methods of teaching. The Nebraska Council of Parents and Teachers honored him with a life membership because of his contributions to education. During the past year he was asked a number of times to talk to children about birds and he liked to inform them that "Birds Eat Bugs."

In 1920 he purchased the *Lincoln County Tribune* of which he became Editor. His son, Harrison, and daughter, Rebecca, helped with the publishing and managing of the paper. Through this medium Mr. Tout made many, many friends.

The Hearthstone Sunday School Class of the Methodist Church in North Platte had Mr. Tout as its teacher for many years. The minister commented that his class had received a fine introduction to theology. He prepared his lessons with the care of details which characterized him.

Other organizations with which Mr. Tout was affiliated were the National Educational Association, the Nebraska Press Association, the American Society of Mammalogists, the American Ornithologists' Union, the Lincoln County Historical Society, AF&SM, Scottish Rite, and he was the first one accepted into membership of the North Platte Rotary Club.

Mr. Tout, with Mrs. Tout, started the North Platte Bird Club in April, 1934. It has met quite regularly since that time usually having a membership between 20 and 25. Other bird clubs in other towns and cities have been patterned after it. The group is very informal and usually follows the dictates of the time and season.

Bird banding which Mrs. Tout began some years ago rather became a family project; and since her death in 1942, Mr. Tout has continued the work. Together they have banded many hundred of birds.

Mr. Tout spent many contented hours sitting in an old rusty garden chair by the back steps of his house, watching birds and making notations about them. Other hours he spent improving his yard. Areas between flowering plants and vegetables were as clean of weeds as if they had been swept. A dandelion dared not rear its head in his bluegrass lawn. Crocuses carefully tended indoors first bloomed early in the shade along the west side of the house. Always hyacinths and other bulbous flowers bloomed in various pots in the house.

Thus Wilson Tout lived among us--good, sincere, studious, orderly, friendly, and with a nice sense of humor. We were fortunate, indeed, to have had so great a man as one of us. We will miss him, but the essence of his wonderful nature will be ever with us.
401 South Ash Street, North Platte, Nebraska



Wilson Tout, May 12, 1951

Photo by Adrian C. Fox

Published Works of Wilson Tout

1. How to Popularize Ornithology, *Proc. Nebr. Orn. Union*, 1900: 34-38.
2. Ornithology in the Schools, *Proc. Nebr. Orn. Union*, 1901: 30-33.
3. Ten Years Without a Gun, *Proc. Nebr. Orn. Union*, 1902: 42-45.
4. Some Bird Notes from Lincoln County, *Proc. Nebr. Orn. Union*, 5 (1911): 32-33.
5. Three Records from the Nebraska Experimental Sub-Station at North Platte, *Proc. Nebr. Orn. Union*, 6 (1915): 46-47.
6. The Desert Sparrow Hawk in Lincoln County in November, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 2 (1934): 38.
7. Water-bird Concentration Due to Drouth, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 2 (1934): 66.
8. The Spread of the Wood Thrush to North Platte, Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 3 (1935): 31.
9. The Evening Grosbeak at North Platte, Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 3 (1935): 82.
10. The Evening Grosbeak at North Platte, Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 3 (1935): 143.
11. An Abundance of Migrating Bobolinks at North Platte, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 3 (1935): 143.
12. The Northern Varied Thrush at North Platte, Lincoln County: An addition to the Nebraska List, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 4 (1936): 9-10.
13. The Bird Life of Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 4 (1936): 51-52.
14. Breeding of the Common Rock Wren at North Platte, Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 4 (1936): 54-55.
15. An Unusual Concentration of American Common Pipits on a Recently Exposed Reservoir Shore Line, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 5 (1937): 10.
16. The White-winged Scoter in Brown County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 5 (1937): 13-14.
17. Birds of the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 6 (1938): 1-4.
18. The Snowy Owl in Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 6 (1938): 17.
19. Some Unusual 1938 Bird Occurrences Near North Platte, Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 6 (1938): 34.
20. A Lincoln County Christmas Bird Census, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 6 (1938): 19-20.
21. The Scarlet Tanager Increases in Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 7 (1939): 31.
22. Notes from North Platte, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 10 (1942): 53.
23. Notes from North Platte, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 11 (1943): 21.
24. The Clark's Nut cracker and Old-squaw Recorded in Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 13 (1945): 43.
25. Nesting of the Double-crested Cormorant in Lincoln County, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 14 (1946): 19.
26. Bird Departure Dates, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 15 (1947): 1-4.
27. Lincoln County Birds, Pub. by the Author, North Platte, 1947.
28. Founders of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 17 (1949): 1-3.
29. Notes from North Platte, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 19 (1951): 32.
30. County Bird Clubs, *Nebr. Bird Review*, 19 (1951): 29-30.



American merganser—male, female.

Courtesy Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin

Announcements

The first Annual Crete Field Day will be held Sunday, September 23, 1951. Please note that this is one week earlier than was originally announced at the North Platte meeting. The morning will be devoted to looking for birds and after lunch there will be a round table discussion on various phases of bird life. The group will meet at the home of William F. Rapp, Jr., 1219 Ivy Street at 8:00 A. M. Bring your own lunch which will be eaten at Camp Crete where the afternoon discussion will be held. Coffee will be served. Indexes to volume 13 and 14 of the *Nebraska Bird Review* may be obtained from the custodian.



NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION meeting at North Platte, May 11, 12, 1951

Front Row, left to right: Doris Gates, Mrs. A. A. Adams, Mrs. Archie Middleton, Mrs. P. F. Cotterell, Mary Louise Hanson, Mrs. A. H. Jones, Georgia Gooch, Mrs. R. A. Goodall, Mrs. H. L. Fabrique, Mrs. E. L. Wiada, Mrs. M. O. Bates, Mrs. H. B. Stevens, Mrs. A. M. Jones, Mrs. Dana Anderson,
 Second row: Adrian C. Fox, Wilson Tout, Arthur McCabe, Mrs. J. M. Davis, Mrs. A. M. Brooking, Mrs. Jane Swenk, Mrs. Carl Collister, Elsie Thompson, Marian Day, Mrs. F. J. Patton, Mrs. Glen Chapman, Katherine Follmer, Carol Kinch, Mrs. Glenn Viehmeyer, Dana Anderson,
 Third Row: W. E. Eigsti, A. A. Adams, Ralph Velich, A. S. Middleton, Marvin Burkhart, Ernie Stutheit, Robert Sutton, Clark Alexander, Carl Gerie, Jr., Glenn Viehmeyer, Donald L. Haws, Edward M. Bosak, H. B. Stevens, Earl W. Glandon, Harry M. Smith, Joe M. Davis.

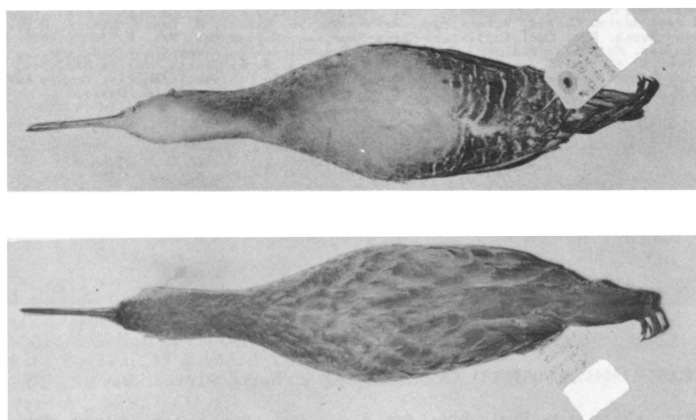
The Clapper Rail In Nebraska

William F. Rapp, Jr. and Janet L. C. Rapp

The first Northern Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris crepitans* Gmelin) to be taken west of Virginia was caught 12 miles east of Stapleton, Logan County, Nebraska, on January 30, 1951. The bird was captured in a swampy area in a trap which had been set for mink. The trapper, Mr. Alma Brown, not recognizing the bird, turned it over to Mr. Earl W. Glandon of Stapleton. Mr. Glandon thought the bird was possibly a Clapper Rail, but could not believe that such a bird had been found in Nebraska. In turn he sent the bird to the authors for identification. They felt that it was a Clapper Rail, but since they did not possess a series of skins of the various races of rails, they sent the specimen to Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne, Curator of Birds, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. Van Tyne, after comparing the Nebraska specimen with the Clapper Rails in the museum, decided that the specimen was a typical Northern Clapper Rail. This is the westernmost record for the Northern Clapper Rail.

According to Ridgway (1941) the range of this species is as follows: "Breeds in salt marshes of the Atlantic coast from Connecticut; New York; and New Jersey south to Virginia; North Carolina; and South Carolina.

"Winters from southern part of its breeding range, chiefly south of New Jersey, occasionally as far north as southern Connecticut and southern Massachusetts; New York, and south to Georgia and to Florida.



Clapper Rail

Dorsal and ventral View Photo by Adrian C. Fox

"Casual in Massachusetts; New Hampshire; Vermont, and in the interior of New York State and Virginia.

"Accidental in Bahama Islands."

Whitmore Stone (1937) states: "The most characteristic bird of the great salt meadows which line the New Jersey coast for a width of from one to five miles, is the Clapper Rail - the 'Mud Hen' of the local gunners, and yet so secretive is it, and so completely does the growth of rank grass and reeds among which it lives conceal its activities, that we know comparatively little of its life history, and all that we ordinarily see of it is a glimpse of a rather large grayish brown bird rising above the grass tops for a moment in rather labored flight and dropping out of sight again a few yards beyond..."

"At the time of Alexander Wilson's visits to the New Jersey meadows, at the beginning of the last century, the Mud Hen was considered to outnumber all the other marsh birds put together, but in recent years its numbers have been sadly depleted..."

Chapman (1937) gives a description of the adult as follows: "Upperparts very pale greenish olive, the feathers widely margined with gray; wings and tail grayish brown; wing-coverts pale cinnamon much washed with gray; throat white; neck and breast pale, between ochraceous and cream-buff, more or less washed with grayish; belly and sides gray or brownish gray, barred with white."

Forbush (1928) describes the economic status of the Clapper Rail as follows: "This bird is of no economic importance in New England, but in the southern states was formerly so abundant that its eggs were gathered in large numbers for food. According to Prof. W. W. Cooke, about 10,000 Clapper Rails were killed in two days in 1896 near Atlantic City, New Jersey. (U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bull. 128.) In the Game Survey of Virginia for the hunting season of 1922-23 it is estimated that 25,000, valued at \$7,500, were killed that year in that state. (Commonwealth of Virginia. Department of Inland Fisheries and Game. Game Survey, season ending Feb. 1, 1923, p. 6.)"

Figure 1 is a photograph of the specimen.

Literature Cited

- Chapman, Frank M. 1937. Birds of Eastern North America. (D. Appleton-Century Company, Inc., New York) p. 253.
- Forbush, Edward Howe. 1928. Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States. (Massachusetts Department of Agriculture) Vol. 1, p. 355.
- Ridgway, Robert. 1941. The Birds of North and Middle America. (Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.) Part IX p. 53
- Stone, Witmer. 1937. Bird Studies at Old Cape May. (The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club) Vol. I, p. 333.
- 1219 Ivy Street, Crete, Nebraska



Photo by Adrian C. Fox

NEST AND EGGS OF THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK

This nest was found under a tuft of the previous season's growth of grass and Russian thistle in an ungrazed fence line. It did not have the typical grassy tunnel leading to it. The smaller egg is of the "parasitic" Cowbird.



Photo by Adrian C. Fox

NEST AND EGGS OF THE GREATER PRARIE CHICKEN

Often known locally as Prairie Chicken, Prairie Hen, Pinnated Grouse and Yellow Legs, the Greater Prairie Chicken is a bird of the prairies that was once abundant in eastern Nebraska. Agricultural encroachment upon its grassland habitat has now reduced its range to the central, northcentral and southwestern portions of the state where it is a permanent resident. Breeding is now chiefly in the sandhills area. This nest was found in a sweet clover field not over fifty feet from a Marsh Hawk's nest!

Minutes Of The Executive Meeting

The Executive committee met in pre-convention session on Thursday evening, May 10, 1951, at the home of Miss Doris Gates in North Platte. Present were Adrian Fox, Mrs. F. J. Patton, Mrs. A. M. Brooking, Wilson Tout, Miss Doris Gates and Mrs. Glen Chapman.

There was a discussion of the advisability of publishing a financial statement each year. Mrs. Patton moved that the Treasurer's financial report, as given at the annual meeting, be published in the July Bird Review. Carried.

It was suggested that the President, Treasurer, and Editor determine the budget for the Bird Review.

The committee also recommended that the coming officers appoint a committee to draw up a questionnaire to be distributed to the membership to ascertain the kind of material desired in the Review and to evaluate the material used in the past.

A list of twenty-four applicants for membership was read and acted upon favorably. The names will be included in the membership list to be published in the January issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review*.

After further discussion of the general welfare of the organization, the meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. Glen Chapman, Recording Secretary

Minutes Of The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

The fiftieth annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held May 11 and 12, 1951 at Hotel Pawnee, North Platte, Nebraska. The North Platte Bird Club was the host organization. Registration began at 8:30 A.M. in the hotel lobby.

President Adrian Fox opened the meeting at 9:30 and announced the appointment of the following committees: Nominating, Mr. Earl Glandon, Mrs. A. M. Brooking and Mr. L. O. Horsky; Auditing, Mr. Wilson Tout, Mr. W. E. Eigsti, and Mrs. A. H. Jones; Resolutions, Mr. Dana Anderson, Mrs. R. A. Goodall, and Mrs. A. M. Jones.

The president of the host organization, Miss Doris Gates, gave a warm welcome to the guests.

The first paper was given by Mr. Glen Veihmeyer, Horticulturist, North Platte Substation, University of Nebraska, on "Field Marks of Hawks." He told of the silhouette, mannerism, and color of the different species of hawks and the habitat where they might be found.

Mrs. F. J. Patton, Blue Springs, Nebraska, told of her trip to the 64,000 acre Bear River Refuge, located 75 miles north and 15 miles west of Salt Lake City, Utah. The list of recorded birds found there numbers 200. Sixty different species nest there.

Mr. W. E. Eigsti, Curator of the House of Yesterday, Hastings, Nebraska, talked on "Feather and Wing Construction." He showed a model of a feather enlarged 1,000 times and also a model of a wing three times enlarged, showing muscle arrangement and the anchorage of feathers in the wing. He exhibited the wings of a number of different species of birds.

"The Experimental Modification of the Breeding Cycle of the Yellow-headed Blackbird" was the subject of a paper by Harry M. Smith, Ornithologist, Department of Zoology, University of Wyoming. This study was the result of two years field work and showed that eggs could be transferred from one nest to another and would be accepted by birds of similar requirements.

Miss Mary Louise Hanson, Technical Assistant, University of Nebraska Museum, gave a brief biography of John James Audubon and spoke of the National Audubon Society Centennial.

Mourning Dove hunting was discussed pro and con by Mr. Lee Jensen of the Nebraska, Game, Forestation and Park Commission, and by Mrs. A. H. Jones of Hastings. A general discussion followed and the meeting then adjourned for the noon hour.

Mrs. Archie Middleton of Brady, Nebraska, opened the afternoon's program with a most interesting paper on "Birds' Nests." Construction of nests about her home was described. She told of the struggle of the birds in raising their young, mentioning the bull snake as an enemy.

The need of revision of the N.O.U. check kist was discussed by Miss Doris Gates of North Platte.

Dr. Baldwin, Department of Zoology, Colorado A. & M. College, told of his six years observation of Honey Creepers in the Hawaiian Islands. The pictures showed the development of different kinds of bills and many colors of plumage. Slides of the plant life in the Islands were shown also.

"Winter Species Association Groups Among Birds" was the topic of Mr. R. G. Beidleman, also of Colorado A. & M. College. The observations presented were the result of 87 field trips and a chart was shown of the kinds of birds found in the same group.

Mr. Wilson Tout of North Platte led in a panel discussion, "The State of the Union," speaking of the objectives of the N.O.U. and suggesting means of enlarging and improving the organization.

The annual business meeting followed immediately. The minutes of the forty-ninth annual meeting having been printed in Vol. 18, 1950, of *The Nebraska Bird Review*, stood approved as published. Report of the Treasurer was given as follows:

May 1, 1950, Balance.....	Life Memberships.....	\$100.00	
	General Fund.....	198.34	\$298.34
Receipts			
	Life Memberships	\$100.00	
	Sustaining Memberships.....	130.00	
	Active Memberships.....	412.00	
	Subscriptions to <i>The Nebraska Bird Review</i>	86.00	
	Sale of Publications.....	51.03	
	Donation, William F. Rapp, Jr.....	10.50	
	Donation, Adrian C. Fox.....	24.37	
	Total.....	\$1112.24	1112.24
Expenditures			
	To the Editor.....	\$ 81.74	
	To the President.....	44.37	
	To the Treasurer.....	10.10	
	To the Corresponding Secretary.....	47.67	
	Treasurer's Bond.....	5.00	
	Missouri Valley Reproduction, Printing.....	489.80	
	Arbor State, Printing.....	14.45	
	Total.....	\$693.13	693.13
May 8, 1951, Balance ..(Life Mem., \$200 & Gen.Fund, \$219.11			419.11
	Mrs. F. J. Patton		
	Treasurer		

The report was accepted and filed with the auditing committee. The Editor's report was read as follows:

REPORT OF THE EDITOR

Since the last meeting of the Nebraska (Ornithologists" Union, four issues of *The Nebraska Bird Review* have appeared. These four issues contain 68 pages of manuscript material plus the annual spring migration report. The four issues contain 26 illustrations plus one color frontispiece in the January issue.

In addition we have published the index for Volume 15 (1947) which was prepared by Mrs. Florence J. Patton and I have on hand the indexes for volumes 13 and 14 which have been prepared by Mr. Wilson Tout. These indexes will be available in the near future.

At present I have on hand enough material for the July issue and some material for the October issue. The bulk of the October issue will be devoted to the annual spring migration report. Because of the large number of observers which we now have, I am changing the format of this report so that it will no longer be in tabular form. This change in format will allow us to use larger type and will also save us money, since we must pay extra for tables.

The Editor is always looking for material for publication. We especially need more longer papers such as the one by Miss Doris Gates entitled 'Birds of Chadron State Park.'

Respectfully submitted,
William F. Rapp, Jr.

The report was accepted.

The Custodian, Miss Mary Louise Hanson, brought greetings from the Nebraska Academy of Sciences and from Dr. Schultz of the Nebraska University Zoology Department.

The Custodian reported as follows:

During the past year the N.O.U. Library has been moved from the Geology Library in Morrill Hall to the room occupied by the Zoology Division of the University of Nebraska State Museum (Andrews Hall 6). As reported in *The Nebraska Bird Review* (Vol. 19, No. 2) there have been seven additions to the Library during the year: *Brooks Bird Club Mail Bag*, *The Explorer* (The Cleveland Museum of Natural History), *Massachusetts Audubon Society Newsletter*, *Historical Newsletter* (Nebraska State Historical Society), *The Owl, Newsletter* (Audubon Society of New Hampshire), and *Topeka Audubon News*. A card file has been prepared for the Library.

The N.O.U. files as well as the store of back issues of both *The Nebraska Bird Review* and the *Proceedings of the N.O.U.* have been moved from Mr. Thorson's office in Bessey Hall 22 to especially designated shelves in Andrews Hall 6. A card catalogue designed to act as a perpetual inventory has been prepared for the back issues. Total sales of back issues have amounted to \$30.24. An item in the current *Nebraska Bird Review* (Vol. 19, No. 2) requesting copies of Vol. 18 has so far resulted in three additional copies of Vol. 18, No. 1 (of which the custodian had no copies) as well as one each of Vol. 16, Nos. 1. and 2, Vol. 17, and Vol. 18, Nos. 2 and 3.

The room in which all of the N.O.U. materials are now located (Andrews Hall 6) is locked at all times when authorized Museum personnel are not working in the room. The materials are considered to be fully as secure as they were in their previous locations.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Louise Hanson
Custodian

May 10, 1951

The report was accepted.

Mr. Wilson Tout gave an oral report for the Auditing Committee, stating the Treasurer's records had been examined and found correct in all details. The report was accepted.

The following resolutions were read and adopted:

Be it resolved that our hosts, the North Platte Bird Club, Miss Doris Gates, Mr. Wilson Tout, and the North Platte Chamber of Commerce, be thanked for the N.O.U. annual meeting.

Be it resolved that special appreciation be given our President, Mr. Adrian C. Fox, Mr. William F. Rapp, Jr. and all N.O.U. officers.

Be it further resolved that those who presented papers on the program be thanked for the time and effort spent in their preparations.

Dana Anderson, Chairman

The report of the Nominating Committee was called for and read as follows:

President, Miss Doris Gates; Vice-President, Mr. Louis M. Moos; Corresponding Secretary, W. E. Eigsti; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Dwight Thomas; Treasurer, Mrs. F. J. Patton; Custodian, Miss Mary Louise Hanson; Editor, William F. Rapp, Jr.

Nominations from the floor were invited. By motion, nominations were closed and the secretary instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the named officers.

Announcement of the field trip the following day was made and the meeting adjourned.

At 6:30 P. M. seventy members and guests met for a banquet after which the group met in the convention room for a restful quarter hour of singing led by Mr. Carl Hollman, accompanied by Mr. Roy Olsen. A reading by Mrs. Charles Craig followed, after which bird pictures were shown by Dr. Roy Wycoff of Lexington, Nebraska. Dr. Wycoff commented on the birds shown in the photographs he himself had taken.

Mr. R. G. Biedleman of Colorado A. & M. College completed the evening's program with the showing of slides and telling most interestingly of the birds of the high Rockies.

Seventy-nine persons were registered for the annual meeting as follows:

NEBRASKA

Aurora:- Mrs. Glen Chapman

Blue Springs:- Mrs. F. J. Patton

Ceresco:- Mrs. Everett D. Almquist, Everett D. Almquist

Chadron:- Mrs. DeFlon, Master DeFlon

Fairfield:- Edward M. Bosak

Hastings:- Mrs. A. A. Adams, A. A. Adams, Mrs. A. M. Brooking, Mrs. J. M. Davis, J. M. Davis, W. E. Eigsti, Mrs. A. H. Jones, Mrs. A. M. Jones, A. M. Jones

Lexington:- Mrs. M. O. Bates, Mrs. Morris Cox, Miss Carol Kinch, Mrs. Roy

Wycoff, Dr. Roy Wycoff, Mrs. E. L. Wisda

Lincoln:- Mrs. W. A. Fleming, Adrian Fox, Miss Mary Louise Hanson, Mrs. Jane

Swenk, Mrs. Dwight Thomas, Don Williams

Nelson:- Mrs. H. L. Fabrique

North Platte:- Marvin Burkhart, Mrs. Charles Craig, Charles Craig, Mrs. R. F.

Cotterell, Miss Doris Gates, Miss Carmen Heller, Mrs. J. C. Hollman, J. C.

Hollman, Russell Langford, Mrs. Aura Mahaffey, Arthur McCabe, Mrs. A. D.

Middleton, A. D. Middleton, Mrs. Norman Miller, Norman Miller, Margaret

Morton, Roy Olson, Mrs. R. A. Phelps, Mrs. Homer Rector, Ernie Stutheit,

Robert Sutton, Miss Rebecca Tout, Wilson Tout, Mrs. Glen Veihmeyer, Glen

Veihmeyer, Mrs. A. J. Yost, A. J. Yost

Oak:- Miss Katherine Follmer

Ogallala:- Mrs. R. A. Goodall, Georgia Goold

Omaha:- Miss Mary Ellsworth, Mrs. William Velich, Ralph Velich

Riverton:- Miss Elsie Thompson
 Scottsbluff:- Mrs. Julia Brashear, Nora Mae Brashear
 Stapleton:- Mickey Delfs, Earl Glandon
 St. Edward:- Mrs. Dana Anderson, Dana Anderson
 Superior:- Miss Marian Day

COLORADO

Boulder:- Mrs. C. H. Richardson
 Ft. Collins:- Dr. Baldwin, Mrs. R. G. Beidleman, R. G. Beidleman
 Greeley:- Mrs. Carl Collister, Carl Collister

SOUTH DAKOTA

Hot Springs:- Mrs. H. B. Stevens, H. B. Stevens

WYOMING

Laramie:- Dr. Harry M. Smith

REPORT OF THE FIELD DAY

The forty-seventh annual field day was held on Saturday, May 12, 1951. The day was sunny and cool with a gusty, thirty miles an hour wind. At 6 A. M. three groups left from Hotel Pawnee. The first group, led by Miss Doris Gates and Mr. Wilson Tout, went north toward Tryon to Jackson Lake, back along White Horse Creek through Cody Park and to the diversion dam. The second group, led by Mr. Glen Viehmeyer, went to the State Farm, then to Lake Maloney. The third group, led by Mr. Carl Hollman, went to the State Farm, then east twelve miles to Stenger's Grove.

At 12:30 o'clock all groups met at a cabin on the Platte where luncheon was served to fifty-five persons. At this time the Brooking Bird Club of Hastings extended an invitation to the N.O.U. to meet with them for the next annual meeting.

The list of 123 birds was then compiled as follows:

Eared Grebe	American Coot
Western Grebe	Semi-palmated Plover
Pied-billed Grebe	Killdeer
Double-crested Cormorant	Long-billed Curlew
Great Blue Heron	Upland Plover
American Bittern	Spotted Sandpiper
Common Mallard	Solitary Sandpiper
American Pintail	Greater Yellow-legs
Blue-winged Teal	Lesser Yellow-legs
Baldpate	Pectoral Sandpiper
Shoveller	Baird's Sandpiper
Redhead	Least Sandpiper
Lesser Scaup Duck	Dowitcher
Ruddy Duck	Avocet
Western Turkey Vulture	Wilson's Phalarope
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Ring-billed Gull
Cooper's Hawk	Franklin's Gull
Red-tailed Hawk	Forster's Tern
Swainson's Hawk	Western Mourning Dove
American Rough-legged Hawk	Screech Owl
Marsh Hawk	Horned Owl
Duck Hawk	Western Burrowing Owl
Eastern Sparrow Hawk	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Lesser Prairie Chicken	Eastern Kingfisher
Bob-white	Northern Flicker
Pheasant	Red-shafted Flicker
Sora	Red-headed Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow-throat
Downy Woodpecker	Chat
Eastern Kingbird	English Sparrow
Western Kingbird	Bobolink
Northern Crested Flycatcher	Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Phoebe	Western Meadowlark
Say's Phoebe	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Western Wood Pewee	Red-wing
Horned Lark	Orchard Oriole
Bank Swallow	Baltimore Oriole
Rough-winged Swallow	Brewer's Blackbird
Barn Swallow	Bronzed Grackle
Northern Cliff Swallow	Cowbird
Purple Martin	Eastern Cardinal
Blue Jay	Western Blue Grosbeak
American Magpie	Dickcissel
Eastern Crow	Evening Grosbeak
Chickadee	Northern Pine Siskin
White-breasted Nuthatch	Goldfinch
Western House Wren	Red-eyed Towhee
Bewick's Wren	Arctic Towhee
Mockingbird	Lark Bunting
Brown Thrasher	Savannah Sparrow
Robin	Western Grasshopper Sparrow
Wood Thrush	Vesper Sparrow
Olive-backed Thrush	Chipping Sparrow
Gray-checked Thrush	Clay-colored Sparrow
Eastern Bluebird	Field Sparrow
American Pipit	Harris' Sparrow
Loggerhead Shrike	White-crowned Sparrow
Starling	White-throated Sparrow
Red-eyed Vireo	Lincoln's Sparrow
Warbling Vireo	Western Swamp Sparrow
Yellow Warbler	
Myrtle Warbler	

Mrs. Glen Chapman
Recording Secretary

Obituaries

CHARLES K. HART, who was elected a member in 1921, died at Clay Center, June 20, 1951. He was born in New Hartford, New York, January 2, 1862. Before coming to Nebraska in 1883, he was admitted to the New York Bar at the age of 22. Not only was he known as an attorney, but as a banker. He was active in the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union for a long period of time and was president in 1927. In addition he was a member of the Brooking Bird Club.

Recently word has been received that J. C. Crawford, Jr., one of our charter members passes away this spring. No details have been received, but a suitable obituary will soon be published in *The Nebraska Bird Review*.

General Notes

NOTES FROM NORTH PLATTE, LINCOLN COUNTY.- A Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) found an ant's nest in January in my yard under a clump of succulents known as "hen-and-chicken." It dug a hole three inches deep between the plants and during the day it must have spent hours digging there.

General Miltonberger told me that there were two Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus*) about his cabin at Lake Maloney during most of December so I had a chance to make a trip out there Christmas day and there they were. Much of the lake was frozen over and the eagles were on the ice where General Miltonberger said they spent most of their time. He thinks they probably feed on dead fish of which there are always quite a number about the lake.

An unusual number of Eastern Robins (*Turdus m. migratorius*) have spent the winter in and near North Platte this year. Just north of the North Platte river north of the city is a fine growth of Russian olive trees that have come up in the lowland and I saw at least 50 Eastern Robins feeding on the olives, several times in January.- Wilson Tout, Box 678, North Platte, Nebraska

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS NESTING IN WEBSTER COUNTY.- Although the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia s. sialis*) is a common migrant through this area, there have been no nesting records until the summer of 1950 when a pair nested in a Wren house in my backyard. At first the male could not enter the house because of the small hole, but I enlarged the hole and soon the male found that he could enter. At first only the male was present, but about June 10 both the male and female were present and started building a nest. A Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) tried to drive the Bluebird from the yard, but did not succeed. On July 2, the nest contained 5 eggs (see fig.). By July 16 there were 4 young; one of the eggs did not hatch. The birds stayed around the yard until July 30 when both the young and adults left.-Harold Turner, Bladen, Nebraska



FALL NOTES FROM BRULE.- On October 18, 1950 while on a bird hike along the South Platte River I observed four small birds which I decided were Crossbills. Since I could not tell which species of Cross bills these were I returned to Brule and picked up Mr. Benckeser. Together we identified these birds as Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*). I have looked for these birds on many occasions since, but I have never seen them again.

On November 18, 1950 I saw a Long-crested Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri diademata*). Since this time the bird has been reported around Brule on several occasions indicating that possibly he will winter in this area.- C. W. Huntley, Brule, Nebraska

NOTES FROM PLAINVIEW.- On October 15 we were near the Missouri River and saw an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus californensis*). The bird was flying low over a field and suddenly dived down and picked up a small object. Since one often sees the statement that the Osprey is "solely fisheating", I wrote to Roger Tory Peterson and in his reply he stated: "Although Ospreys have been known to eat or at least catch turtles and snakes, I have never heard of one taking a mouse. It is of course possible that an Osprey might, as Kingfishers have been known to take mice."

Since October 31 we have seen Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) almost daily in our yard.

On November 18 we saw a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*). This bird stayed around for several hours and we were able to observe it from a fairly close distance.- Luella Seabury, Plainview, Nebraska

OLD-SQUAWS AND WOOD DUCK.- While watching waterfowl at Babcock Lake north of Columbus, Platte county, on October 18, 1946, in company with Bernard Schoenrock, our attention was drawn to a group of five birds by the unusual pattern which clearly distinguished these birds from the other ducks within view. We studied them for several minutes as they circled several times in good position for observation. Both sexes were represented in the group which was unmistakably identified as Old-squaws. (*Clangula hyemalis*).

My first and only observation of a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) in the wild occurred in early September, 1947, when I flushed a drake from the Youngberg farm pond about five miles northwest of Lincoln. The bird flushed about twenty feet from me when I climbed up over the fill at the lower end of the pond. It circled again at rather close range as if reluctant to leave that location.- Levi L. Mohler, Lincoln, Nebraska

WINTER NOTES FROM PLATTSMOUTH.- On February 18 Mr. Berlett reported ten Clark's Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) at his feeding station northwest of town. He says he has seen them each winter for the last three or four years in the timber near an old army camp.

On February 20 I saw two Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus s. satrapa*) and a single Mockingbird (*Mimus p. polyglottos*). In two years' records of the latter there has never been more than one individual.

A male Cardinal (*Richmondena c. cardinalis*) used our garage for night shelter most of the winter. Since cardinals rise earlier than we do, he was always fluttering and scolding impatiently at the

window before the door was opened each morning. Neither our late morning hours nor the late night driving of the car into the garage after he had gone to bed prevented his use of the garage. In mid-winter, when the door was opened, he flew straight to the feeder. Now toward spring his first concern is to drive out other male cardinals, feeding in the yard during his absence.- Lorene Heineman, *Plattsmouth, Nebraska*

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS OF THE WEST. By Ernest Sheldon Booth. Stanford University Press. Stanford, California, 1950: ix and 402 pp. \$6.00

This book will be of great interest to bird students who live in the extreme western part of Nebraska and those who plan to take a trip to the states west of Nebraska. The style of this book is quite different from the field guides written by Roger Tory Peterson in that this guide uses a system of keys. The key is a set of opposite statements in pairs. By means of elimination the user is led to the correct name. A description of each bird, the range for the entire year, notations on the nest and eggs, and a drawing accompany the keys. The reviewer has some doubts as to how readily a beginner can use the keys even though the author claims it can be done without help or guidance. There are many excellent color plates and black and white drawings which should help with the identification. The main objection to this book is the cost, \$6.00 puts this book out of reach of many beginning bird students.-W.F.R.

HANDBOOK OF ATTRACTING BIRDS. By Thomas P. McElroy, Jr. Alfred A. Knopf. New York, 1950: xiv and 163 pp. \$2.75

This is an excellent book for the person who is interested in attracting birds. Not only is the subject of attracting birds to the backyard discussed, but such specialized fields as attracting game birds and waterfowl. There is also a small but interesting chapter on starting public bird sanctuaries. This chapter should be of interest to local bird clubs and to garden clubs. The main complaint about this book is that it lacks an index.-W.F.R.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. By Ira N. Gabrielson. The Macmillan Company.. 60 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, 1951: xii and 274 pp. \$4.50

Bird students, teachers, sportsman, and all others interested in wildlife will be interested in reading this book. This book examines the practices, problems, and solutions in this very vital field of wildlife management. Dr. Gabrielson approaches the problem from the practical point of view, taking into consideration the fact that farming, lumbering, and many other activities that support large human activities must continue with wildlife management. There are many excellent photographs showing good and bad wildlife management practices. All in all this book is a valuable source of information on wildlife management.-W.F.R.