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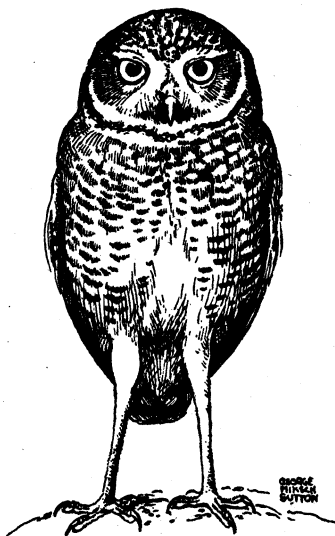
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VOLUME XI      JANUARY-JUNE, 1943      NUMBER I

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# The Nebraska Bird Review



*A Magazine of the Ornithology  
of the Nebraska Region*

Published by the  
**Nebraska Ornithologists' Union**

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# THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

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## SOME OBSERVATIONS OF THE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE IN LINCOLN COUNTY\*

By MARY PAINE MIDDLETON

The Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus\*\**), a species which has been divided into six recognized forms, is a bluer and smaller edition of the Northern Shrike, with black lores connected by a black line above the bill. There is a black stripe across the forehead and running along the sides of the head to a point far behind the eyes. The underparts are white. There is also some white on the wings which is noticeable in flight. The bird measures nine inches from tip of beak to end of tail. The bill is heavy and the dagger-like point of the end bends downward. The bird weighs about two ounces.

The shrike does not appear to hunt for its food but watches from some high branch or telephone wire or post until some insect or mouse comes in sight. Then, with dart-like precision and quickness it seizes its prey and carries it away.

This species nests twice a season and lays from four to seven eggs. It will sometimes skip a day or so when laying its clutch. I have noticed they will lay in the same clump of trees for years never repairing an old nest but always building a new nest for the new

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\*This is an abstract of a paper read at a meeting of the North Platte Bird Club during the past winter by the author who is president of that organization.—Ed.

\*\*Two races of *Lanius ludovicianus* are known to occur in Nebraska: the Migrant Shrike (*L. l. migrans*) eastwardly and the White-rumped Shrike (*L. l. excubitorides*) westwardly. It is to be regretted that under the present system of nomenclature there is no accepted vernacular name that can be used to refer to *Lanius ludovicianus* as a species. "Loggerhead Shrike" is here used because it is the name most acceptable and was first used to describe the species, but according to the 1931 A.O.U. Check-List it should only be used for the Atlantic coast race which does not occur in Nebraska.—Ed.

family. However, the second nest of the season is usually some distance from the first. Typical nesting trees are the box elder, wild plum and mulberry. Here it will sit on the top-most branch and dart for food.

The Loggerhead Shrike is not found in dense forest as its feeding habits call for the open spaces of farm and open woods. During the nesting season this bird does produce a few musical notes that could be called a song, however, the cries one hears most are the harsh, grating, scolding notes all during the breeding season repeated over and over.

This shrike is sometimes called the Southern Butcher Bird and the French Mockingbird. It is found over much of the United States and especially on the Pacific coast. All forms migrate south and usually spend the winter in the southern United States. However, I have seen lone individual Loggerhead Shrikes in Lincoln County during every month of the year. This year (1942), December 20 was the latest date that I saw this species. So if conditions are favorable a few spend the winter here. In many localities the Northern Shrike arrives to take its place. This particular species, *L. borealis*, comes down from the north and winters in the United States.

The bill of the Loggerhead Shrike resembles that of a bird of prey and there is a similarity in some of its food habits. However, it does not have the long sharp talons of owls and hawks although its toes are developed enough to be of value in capturing the small forms of life on which it preys. It feeds on grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, lizards, mice and young birds. One habit which the bird has is that of sticking its prey on thorns, barbwire fences, or broken twigs and sometimes they are left there indefinitely. On one occasion I found a small fish stuck on a twig in the orchard. I would go back at intervals to see if the fish remained intact. It remained there all summer until late fall dried and shriveled. In the summer of 1942 I found a field mouse hung by the nape of the neck from a broken twig. This one, however, only remained a week when I discovered it gone. Newly hatched pheasants and quail on game farms have been known to have been captured by shrikes. Whenever they capture prey that must be torn apart, they press it firmly down in the crotch of a tree where they proceed to dissect it with ease. Also like birds of prey and some of other species, the shrike habitually disgorges part of its food after digesting the nutritional part. The hair and bones are rolled into compact pellets in the stomach before being disgorged.

The Department of Agriculture investigated the stomachs of 124 birds of a western subspecies of the Loggerhead Shrike and 88 stomachs of an eastern race were examined. The western birds showed 2.5 per cent vegetable matter in their stomachs but nothing other than animal matter was found in the stomachs of the eastern race. The animal matter in the stomachs of the western birds con-

## OBSERVATIONS OF THE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE 3

sisted of insects 83 per cent, spiders 2 per cent, and vertebrates 12 per cent. The stomachs of the eastern shrikes showed insects 68 per cent, spiders 4 per cent, and vertebrates 28 per cent. The difference is undoubtedly due to climate since the western bird is able to find food the year around while the eastern one gets less to eat during the winter. The largest items of insect food are grasshoppers and crickets which constitute 43 per cent of the stomach contents of the western and 39 per cent in the eastern birds. They are eaten every month of the year and in August and September reach nearly 70 per cent. Grasshoppers form the bulk of this item of food and brown and striped wood crickets are well represented. Other items in their diet are ants, caterpillars, bugs and flies. The vertebrate portion of the shrike's diet is made up largely of mammals, birds and lizards.

In 1942 I was fortunate in being able to watch a pair of shrikes during the nesting season. On March 28, two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen darting through the naked branches of the trees near our farm home south of Brady, Lincoln County, Nebraska. On April 9, before the leaves were on the trees, I saw them carrying dead grass and starting to build a nest in a clump of box elder trees at some distance from the house where a pair of this species had built a nest for several years. On April 28, a mockingbird arrived and the shrikes tried to chase it away. By May 23 the nest had been built, the eggs laid, and incubation began. Imagine my surprise on a particular morning to see five tailless, crying youngsters sitting in a row on a dead branch and begging for one more grasshopper or other bird delicacy. I watched them for some time and both adult birds took turns feeding the hungry brood. This went on each day while the old birds would take time between feedings to build a second nest. This time they built their nest in a mulberry tree in front of the house. I could watch this nest closely for it was the first time I had seen these birds build a nest that low. By standing on the kitchen stool I could look into it easily.

On June 4 there was one egg, grayish-white, spotted with shades of brown and gray at the larger end. By June 13 there were six eggs in the nest and incubation had begun. On June 29 the first egg hatched and the young was a naked, blind, helpless little thing resembling a grub. One egg did not hatch. On June 30 there were five baby shrikes in the nest. The last four were as naked and helpless as the first. Not a sign of feathers or down was on their nude little bodies. On July 2 there was just a hint of down appearing on the lower part of their legs. They were blind and still as helpless as new born mice. The parent shrikes were busy terrorizing other birds and I found the newly hatched mockingbirds missing from their nest. The nest of the mockingbirds was not disturbed but the young were gone. I suspected the shrikes for they had been fighting with the mockingbirds at intervals all day and the nests were located not a great distance apart. The old shrikes were still very shy of

me and flew off the nest whenever I came in sight, perching at a safe distance to watch. I handled the eggs in the process of incubation and the little ones after they had hatched but the old birds remained at a safe distance and always came back.

My notebook records that on "July 3, birds are growing a little and more fuzz. July 4, birds are still naked. July 5, they are growing fast but still blind. July 6, I took one from the nest and discovered dark pin-feathers showing beneath the skin and one had its eyes opened slightly. This time the mother bird came nearer." When I went near the nest on July 7 the mother bird darted at me and gave her shrill alarm call. The eyes of the young were now open and as they stretched their necks for food, their mouths opened in unison. On July 9 the pin feathers began to give the young a quilly appearance. The old birds became braver and stayed nearer and scolded. When I picked one out of the nest it closed its eyes and played dead and the others in the nest did the same. They let their heads hang limp against the edge of the nest. The next four days showed a very rapid development both in quills and weight. On July 13, when I approached the nest they all left like an exploding bomb and took to various branches. The old birds stood by and coaxed them from limb to limb. They were an ugly, quilly brood with feathers showing sparingly and with very short tails which grew in length as the days passed. During the remainder of July the birds continued to be fed by the old ones and their cries were heard at intervals during these two weeks as they demanded one more grasshopper. I could see them lined up on a branch calling for more food. I noticed too, that the first family had to be fed continually while the second clutch was being incubated. The young of the second brood moved farther away by August and could be seen darting in the grass and fields for food.

The Loggerhead Shrike is a bird of striking appearance. He is noisy, rude, and yet attractive. The bird's good habits outweigh its destructiveness. The species is shy of humans and never comes near unless too much interest is shown in its young.

*Brady, Nebraska*

**THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE WHOOPING CRANE  
IN NEBRASKA\***

By A. M. BROOKING

There is no doubt in my mind that it is only a matter of a few short years until the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) will be extinct. Living as I do in the pathway of its migration, I have taken a great interest in its welfare and have within the last few years watched its gradual decline with alarm.

I cannot believe that this bird was ever as abundant as some writers might lead us to think, for my observations extend back for almost half a century and even in the nineties, only scattered flocks were seen, although some of them numbered as many as fifty individuals. A few were killed in central Nebraska each spring, for many hunters in those early days killed about everything that crossed their path, more to test their skill than for game as the Whooping Cranes were never considered good eating. The birds were wary and did not decoy, but their large size made them an enticing target that few could resist when they came within range.

About 1906 I began to keep records, after a fashion and soon sensed that this particular bird was destined to join the Passenger Pigeon in oblivion. Thirty years ago I made the acquaintance of Mr. Cyrus A. Black of Kearney, Nebraska, and found that he too shared my belief that the bird was doomed. I am indebted to him for many of the records I have since compiled. For the past twenty years I have purchased and remounted every Whooping Crane I could obtain and secured in all twenty-one birds. Fortunately the skin of this crane was easily cleaned of fat by even the most amateur taxidermist so that in most cases they have remounted into very passable specimens. Some of these were disposed of to other institutions but our group in the Hastings Museum still contains twelve fine birds.

Previous to 1912 our records were more or less incomplete for no great effort was made to check the veracity or knowledge of our observers and perhaps some of the flying birds could have been pelicans instead of cranes. For this reason when Professor Swenk com-

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\*An article, "The Present Status of the Whooping Crane", by Myron H. Swenk appeared in the October, 1933, issue of THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW. This article was a revision of the paper he read before the Forty-ninth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 20, 1931. The published article included records for 1931, 1932 and 1933 not included in the paper read before the A. O. U. Mr. Brooking's article adds Whooping Crane records for the years 1934 to 1943 inclusive.—Ed.



piled his comprehensive list, published in the October issue of the NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW in 1933 he omitted many of these records previous to 1912. Since the publication of Professor Swenk's article I have made a special effort to secure and compile every record obtainable. I have a wide acquaintance among farmers and hunters up and down the Platte River, who report to me the occurrence of this bird so I believe my records for this section are as complete as it is possible to obtain.

During 1934 over one hundred Whooping Cranes were reported. Since then the decline has been very rapid if we can rely upon the evidence at hand. I have just one record for 1935. It was a report of a large flock, numbering about forty birds. Eighty-two were reported in 1936, sixty-four in 1937, forty-nine in 1938, thirteen in 1939, thirty-one in 1940, three in 1941 and four in 1942. So far this spring (May 1st, 1943), only one bird has been reported. This was a lone bird seen with a large flock of Sandhill Cranes, four miles west of the Kearney bridge by Mr. C. A. Black upon April 4th. I am in hopes that we may hear of many others.

In view of these figures, it would not surprise me to find that the Whooping Crane has suddenly dropped from sight. I do not care to express my opinion as to why this has happened, but I do know that as far as the middle west is concerned, it cannot be blamed upon excessive hunting, for I know of but few birds being killed illegally in the past twenty years.

Listed below are the Nebraska records of the Whooping Crane for the years 1934 to 1943 inclusive, this supplements the published records of Professor Swenk which included all Nebraska records from 1912 to 1933 inclusive, and brings the 32-year record up to date.

—1934—

- April 1—Kearney, Buffalo Co.—C. A. Black—6 or 7 birds seen flying.
- April 3—Kearney, Buffalo Co.—Bert Procter—3 seen along the Platte River.
- April 7—Wood River, Hall Co., Solon Wells farm—Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Brooking—flock of 13 seen flying.
- April 8—Wood River, Hall Co., Solon Wells farm—Annette Frantz, Carrie Hanson, Nelle Rowe and Caryle Sylla—20 birds seen along river, undoubtedly from same flock as above.
- April 12—1 mile east of Gibbon, Buffalo Co.—Irene and Marie Sorenson—12 seen along Platte River.
- April 14—Newark, Kearney Co.—Jim Sams—large flock of perhaps 40 seen flying north.
- April 15—1 mile east of Lowell, Kearney Co.—Walter Vance—20 birds seen perhaps from same flock as above.
- April 15—1 mile north of Lowell, Kearney Co.—A. C. Procter—

PRESENT STATUS OF THE WHOOPING CRANE 7

20 birds seen, probably from same flock as above.  
April 15 or 16—4 miles north and 1 mile east of Lowell, Kearney Co.—Chris Zwink—5 birds seen.  
April 17—2 miles west of Wood River, Hall Co.—Mr. and Mrs. Will Burmood—flock of 21 seen.  
April 17—Lewellyn, Garden Co.—Art Hunnell and Ray Craft—20 or 25 seen along North Platte River.  
April 18—10 miles east of Kearney, Buffalo Co.—Ben Armitage—5 seen feeding.  
April 21—Farwell, Howard Co.—Anton Jerabek—large flock seen flying.  
April 21—Lexington, Dawson Co.—Vernon French—60 or 70 birds seen (probably pelicans).  
May—Wood River, Hall Co.—S. W. Wells—2 seen along Platte River.  
September 23—Loomis, Phelps Co.—J. J. Johnson—50 or 60 seen flying south.

—1935—

April 10—Central City, Merrick Co.—George Wilson—flock of perhaps 40 seen flying north.

—1936—

March 31—Overton, Dawson Co.—Clifford Lanpher—1 bird seen flying north.  
April 1—1 mile east of bridge at Alda, Hall Co.—A. A. Adams—6 seen flying.  
April 1—Cozad, Dawson Co.—Messrs. Conover and Foley of Game Dept.—7 seen flying over Platte River.  
April 11—Wood River, Hall Co.—Carl Tillotson—large flock seen (perhaps pelicans).  
April 11—Elm Creek, Buffalo Co.—Dave Reeve—flock of 28 seen.  
April 12—Kearney, Buffalo Co.—Col. Arbuckle—40 seen flying.

—1937—

March 28—Overton, Dawson Co.—C. M. Rettig—26 seen along Platte River.  
April 4—7 miles north of Minden, Kearney Co.—O. M. Frederick—38 seen flying north.

—1938—

April 2—Lowell, Kearney Co.—D. J. Milburn—32 seen in flock flying overhead.  
April 7—west of bridge at Wood River, Hall Co.—seen by a farmer, name lost—17 along Platte River.

—1939—

March 18—7 miles west of Sutherland, Lincoln Co.—Mr. and Mrs.

Harry Weakly—6 birds seen in a flock of Sandhill Cranes.  
 April 17—Wood River, Hall Co.—G. H. Phillips—5 seen along  
 Platte River.  
 October 22—Between Cozad and Darr, Dawson Co.—2 birds seen  
 along Platte River.

## —1940—

March 22—North Platte, Lincoln Co.—Frank McKain, Dale Goodwin  
 and Harry Weakly—12 birds seen along Platte River.  
 April 30—Elm Creek, Buffalo Co.—Howard Miller—19 birds seen  
 along Platte River.

## —1941—

April 19—Gothenburg, Dawson Co.—Charles Swanson—3 seen  
 in flock of Sandhill Cranes.

## —1942—

April 7—Lexington, Dawson Co.—Messrs. Burman and Guyer  
 (game wardens)—3 birds seen in a flock of Sandhill Cranes.  
 October 22—Odessa, Buffalo Co.—Jack Gehre—1 bird seen along  
 Platte River.

## —1943—

April 4—Kearney, Buffalo Co.—C. A. Black—1 bird seen in a  
 large flock of Sandhill Cranes.

*Hastings Museum, Hastings, Nebraska*

**RESULTS OF A TWO-DAY WALKING TRIP ALONG  
 THE MISSOURI RIVER IN DOUGLAS AND  
 SARPY COUNTIES**

By FREDERIC D. GARRETT

Ninety-two birds were seen in the course of a two-day walk,  
 May 19 and 20, 1943, along the Missouri River south of Omaha.

Leaving the bus at the South Omaha Bridge, I followed the  
 Burlington tracks through Fontenelle Forest to the northern edge  
 of Bellevue village, then continued south along the river bank around  
 Saint Mary's Bend to the mouth of Papillion Creek, then west along  
 the creek to the spot where I spent the night in heavy woods along  
 its northern bank. In the morning I continued to the rail crossing  
 and then worked back along the tracks through Bellevue and Fon-  
 tenelle Forest again, to Omaha, with a detour over the Signal Ridge  
 Trail and up Mormon Hollow. The trip extended over a total of  
 twenty-seven hours (10:00 A.M. May 19 to 1:00 P.M. May 20).

Several of the records are rather interesting. The Yellow-  
 breasted Chat had apparently arrived in numbers since the preced-  
 ing week-end. On May 16 I found none in Fontenelle Forest but  
 on both May 19 and May 20 they were fairly abundant. At least

two and possibly tree Prothonotary Warblers were feeding in the trees at the northwest corner of Horseshoe Lake on May 19. I failed to find them the following day. Late in the afternoon of May 19 I flushed a pair of Wood Ducks from a tree in the woods along Papillion Creek. Presumably they are breeding. As the daylight was fading I discovered that the spot I had chosen for sleeping was within fifty feet of a Barred Owl's nest. My view was obscured by a small tree and I was perplexed by the peculiar hissing, half whistling calls of the young and the scraping of the old birds' claws on the bark as they brought food. Finally one flew into a tree where I could see it dimly, while it produced a few of its weird, strangely human notes. The next morning I found that the nest was in a ragged cavity where a limb had broken off about twenty feet up in a large cottonwood. Three young birds, still covered with light gray down were perched on the jagged edges of the cavity. The old birds appeared to be nowhere about. On May 20 I saw and heard five or six Mourning Warblers scattered along Papillion Creek and also through Fontenelle Forest. I had seen none on the preceding day. Along the Burlington tracks south of Bellevue there appears to be quite a colony of Western Grasshopper Sparrows. They were singing there and are probably breeding. I discovered a Kentucky Warbler near the mouth of Mormon Hollow. A pair of Turkey Vultures were circling over the forest on both days.

The list probably gives a reasonably good summary of the late spring birds in the territory covered and is reproduced in full below. The territory includes at least five different habitat localities: the bottom-land woods east of the tracks in Fontenelle Forest and along Papillion Creek, the upland woods of Fontenelle Forest, the open fields south of Bellevue, the sand flats along the river covered with willow scrub, and the cat-tail and willow marsh about Horseshoe Lake. To a considerable extent the avifauna is different in each. It is by far least rich along the river flats. The willow scrub seems populated largely by Bell's Vireos and Eastern Red-wings and, strangely enough, Baltimore Orioles. Most distinct is the population of the open county characterized by Dickcissels and meadowlarks. The predominant bird of the woods, both lowland and upland, and especially of their edges along the railroad tracks, appears to be either the Eastern Yellow Warbler or Western House Wren. Not far behind in numbers are the Indigo Buntings, the American Redstarts, and the Northern Yellow-throats. Without question the predominant birds about Horseshoe Lake are the Eastern Red-wings and Eastern Green Herons. Following is the list of birds observed on the two-day trip:

Great Blue Heron, Eastern Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron; Blue-winged Teal, pair flushed from overflow pool in woods along the Papillion; Wood Duck, see above; Turkey Vulture, Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged

Hawk; Ring-necked Pheasant, heard only in the open country south of Bellevue; American Coot, several in overflowed fields along the Papillion; Killdeer, in the wet meadows south of Bellevue; Spotted Sandpiper, on the mud banks along the river and creek; Lesser Yellow-legs, near pasture pond south of Bellevue; Pectoral Sandpiper, small flock south of Bellevue; Least Tern, several over the river at St. Mary's Bend; Rock Dove, Western Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl; Northern Barred Owl, see above; Eastern Nighthawk, one flushed from sand in willows along river; Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Eastern Belted Kingfisher, along the Papillion; Northern Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark; Bank Swallow, seen only about Saint Mary's Bend; Rough-winged Swallow, appeared considerably more numerous than the Bank Swallow; Barn Swallow; Northern Cliff Swallow, a few south of Bellevue; Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Starling; White-eyed Vireo, confined to a small territory on the western side of the tracks south of Coffin Springs; Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler; Prothonotary Warbler, see above; Nashville Warbler, rather generally distributed, high in the trees, through all the woods; Eastern Yellow Warbler, probably the most abundant bird of the trip; Black-poll Warbler, like the Nashville widely distributed and feeding very high but in smaller numbers; Oven-bird, Grinnell's Water-Thrush; Kentucky Warbler, see above; Mourning Warbler, Northern Yellow-throat; Yellow-breasted Chat, see above; American Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Eastern Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Eastern Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee; Western Grasshopper Sparrow, see above; Eastern Chipping Sparrow and Western Field Sparrow.

*University of Nebraska, College of Medicine,  
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**NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION REGIONAL  
MEETINGS AND FIELD DAYS DURING MAY, 1943**

By a vote of the Executive Committee of the N. O. U. taken by the Corresponding Secretary it was decided to postpone the usual May meeting of the organization because of wartime travel restrictions. The present officers will therefore continue to serve until a state-wide official meeting can again be held. The Executive Committee sent a letter to all members requesting that regional meetings be held by groups throughout the state and that field days be held and bird lists made on the week-end of May 8th and 9th or as near that date as convenient. The reports of meetings and field days from the seven cities reporting are as follows:

**Bridgeport**

Miss Mary Ann Wake reports that she took a bird listing trip on the afternoon of May 9 at Bridgeport. The day was cold and wet and because of adverse weather conditions Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Keller were not able to go with her. Bird students throughout the state were distressed to learn of Mr. Keller's sudden passing. His funeral was held on May 16. Miss Wake reports 18 species noted on her afternoon trip. They are: American Bittern, Western Mourning Dove, Screech Owl (subsp.), Western Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Horned Lark (subsp.), Barn Swallow, Northern Cliff Swallow, Northern Blue Jay, American Magpie, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, White-rumped Shrike, Myrtle Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Thick-billed Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle and Arctic Towhee.

**Chadron**

Mrs. B. C. Byerly, secretary of the Inez Houghton Audubon Society, sent us a list of birds seen by the several members of that organization on May 8th and 9th. These observations were made at the city dam eight miles south of Chadron and in city parks and yards of that community. In addition, Mrs. George Blinco also sent a list of species observed by Mr. Blinco and herself on May 8th and 9th. Mrs. Blinco reports that on May 8th they drove to the city dam leaving at 4:30 P.M. The temperature was 50 degrees, there were heavy clouds and a cold wind was blowing. On May 9th they went to Wilson Park at 7:20 A.M. On this day the sun was bright and the temperature was under 50 degrees as there had been a fairly heavy frost the previous night. The combined list for all the Chadron observers totals 41 species and is as follows:

Common Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Ring-necked Pheasant, Western Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl (subsp.), Northern Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker (subsp.), Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Bank Swallow, American Magpie, Long-tailed Chickadee,

Rocky Mountain Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Western House Wren, Western Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Audubon's Hermit Thrush, White-rumped Shrike, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Western Yellow-throat, English Sparrow, Western Mockingbird, Thick-billed Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle, Rocky Mountain Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak (subsp.), Northern Pine Siskin, Pale Goldfinch (subsp.), Arctic Towhee, Lark Bunting, Western Lark Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Western Tree Sparrow, Western Chipping Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow.

#### Fairbury

Eight members of the Fairbury Nature Union: Misses Bertha Holly, Margaret Chambers, Juanita Regnier, Fannie Cross, Agnes and Susie Callaway, and Mesdames Chas. Richardson and W. H. McCoy took a field trip Saturday, May 8th. In the morning they drove south to Rose Creek where forest conditions prevail, and in the afternoon they visited the sand pit northwest of town where water and shore birds were observed. A trip was also made to the state lakes northwest of Powell and to the Crystal Springs lakes near Fairbury. The list of 95 species and subspecies observed on this trip is as follows:

Eared Grebe, Eastern Green Heron, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Marsh Hawk, Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Eastern Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Eastern Solitary Sandpiper, Western Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Western Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Western Burrowing Owl, Eastern Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western House Wren, Eastern Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Migrant Shrike, Starling, Bell's Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Grinnell's Water-Thrush, Northern Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, English Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Eastern Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rocky Mountain Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Eastern Goldfinch, Arctic Towhee, Eastern Savannah Sparrow, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Lark Sparrow, Eastern

## MEETINGS AND FIELD DAYS DURING MAY, 1943 13

Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Western Field Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Gambel's Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow.

### Fremont

Mrs. Lily Ruegg-Button reports that she made a bird listing trip on May 9th examining areas in and around Fremont, including Wild Court, Big Island and fields and woods about the city. She reports the day was cool and there was light rain part of the time. She noted 61 species as follows:

Marsh Hawk, Eastern Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Forster's Tern, Western Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Eastern Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Eastern Wood Pewee, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Migrant Shrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Northern Yellow-throat, American Redstart, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Eastern Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Northern Pine Siskin, Eastern Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Eastern Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow.

### Hastings

Mrs. A. H. Jones reports that the members of the Brooking Bird Club held their field day on May 8th. The region traversed was that about Crystal Lake and territory along the Blue River. On May 9th eight more species were seen in Hastings Parks and southwest of town bringing the total list for the two days to 109 species and subspecies. Parties participating in the bird listing were the following: Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Brooking, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Adams, Miss Joyce Adams, Mrs. A. M. Jones, Miss Caryle Sylla, Mrs. Jennie Woodworth, Miss Carrie Hansen, Mrs. Dorr Mahoney, Mrs. J. M. Davis, Miss Dora Carriker, Mrs. C. E. Ruch and Mrs. A. H. Jones, all of Hastings, and Mrs. Garth Osterhaut of David City. The day until mid-afternoon was cool and cloudy. The party left Hastings at 8:00 A.M., temperature 30 degrees, returning at 3:30 P.M., temperature 60 degrees. The 109 forms listed are as follows:

Little Blue Heron, Eastern Green Heron, Black-crowned Night



Heron, Common Mallard, American Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Eastern Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Western Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Western Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Chimney Swift, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Red-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Horned Lark (subsp.), Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, American Magpie, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western House Wren, Mockingbird (subsp.), Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, White-rumped Shrike, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Western Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Grinnell's Water-Thrush, Louisiana Water-Thrush, Yellow-throat (subsp.), American Redstart, English Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-wing (subsp.), Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird (subsp.), Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rocky Mountain Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Dickcissel, Northern Pine Siskin, Eastern Goldfinch, Arctic Towhee, Lark Bunting, Savannah Sparrow (subsp.), Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow (subsp.), Lark Sparrow (subsp.), Tree Sparrow (subsp.), Chipping Sparrow (subsp.), Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Gambel's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow.

#### Lincoln

The Lincoln Bird Club of which Mrs. W. S. Gulotta is president and Mrs. Claire Miles is secretary, held its monthly meeting on May 25th at Morrill Hall. Mr. Frank H. Shoemaker headed the program with an illustrated lecture on "The Sand-hill Area of Nebraska and Its Wildlife." Up till May 29 club members had reported a total of 130 species and subspecies for the Lincoln migration list for the year. Professor and Mrs. John Bliese furnished a considerable portion of this list. The Lincoln Bird Club now issues a bulletin called "THE DICKCISSEL". Monthly meetings are held each fourth Tuesday of the month in Morrill Hall.

## MEETINGS AND FIELD DAYS DURING MAY, 1943 15

### Omaha

Sponsored by the Omaha Nature Study Club, bird students of Omaha gathered at Fontenelle Forest on the morning of May 9 to hold their regional field day. Side trips were made to Carter Lake and other parts of the city but the greater portion of the observations for the day were made in Fontenelle Forest and adjoining territory all in Sarpy County. The day was cold and rainy, minimum temperature 49 degrees, maximum temperature 52 degrees, precipitation during the day .23 inches. Except for a few short periods a light rain fell continually during the day.

The twenty-nine persons taking part in the field day were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. William Ship Book, Miss Bertha M. Calvert, Mrs. Floyd M. Clarke, Miss Emma M. Ellsworth, Miss Mary E. Ellsworth, Mrs. Dorothy O. Gannon, Dr. and Mrs. Frederic D. Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Haecker, Mr. L. O. Horsky, Mr. Martin E. Larson, Miss Amy C. Lawton, Dr. R. Allyn Moser, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Perkins, Dr. Chas. A. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Verne W. Vance and Phyllis and Verne W. Vance II, Miss Alice Von Bergen and Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Winslade. A picnic lunch was held at Mandan Park after which the party assembled at the caretaker's house at Fontenelle Forest to compile the composite list. After this the annual meeting of the Omaha Nature Study Club was called to order by Acting President F. W. Haecker. New officers for the coming year were elected as follows: president, Dr. Charles A. Stewart; vice president, Dr. Frederic D. Garrett; secretary-treasurer, Mr. L. O. Horsky. The composite list consisting of 103 species of birds seen during the one day was as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup Duck, Northern Red-shouldered Hawk (nest and young), Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, Franklin's Gull, Common Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Western Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Western House Wren, Eastern Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnat-

catcher, Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-Thrush, Northern Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Eastern Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Eastern Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Eastern Lark Sparrow, Eastern Tree Sparrow, Eastern Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Western Field Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Dakota Song Sparrow.

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#### GENERAL NOTES

**Notes From Chadron.**—For some years there has been quite a concentration of blackbirds, mostly Bronzed Grackles, about Chadron. The birds come early in August and roost in the taller trees and for the past two years have taken over the entire Court House Square for their nightly rest. There are thousands of them. I spent an hour, from 6 to 7 P.M., on the evening of August 19, in this small park to estimate if possible the numbers of these birds that were coming in for the night. The trees were quite well populated even at the time I arrived and the noise was terrific. I had a full view to the south and to the west from my lookout and the flocks were coming in from these two directions in nearly continuous streams. A quick count revealed from 100 to 300 birds in each flock and there were over 5,000 birds in just the south and west lanes. I could hear other flocks coming in from the east and the north but could not see them because of the building. The birds were still coming in when I had to leave. The trees are alive with birds each night for about three weeks, then they begin leaving. The lawn under the trees is littered with tail and wing feathers which they seem to drop during this period. The grass becomes so befeathered that it appears some prankish elf had spent hours sticking feathers into the ground for they stand upright for the most part and very close together. One September evening several years ago, Mr. Blinco and I were driving home from Hay Springs and when about four miles from Chadron we saw an immense flock of blackbirds of various species. We stopped for ten minutes or more while the countless birds passed rapidly overhead in a southwesterly direction. This great cloud of birds was about two miles wide and we could see it for a long distance. They were still flying over when we had to move on because of rain. One wonders where they all come from. We see Yellow-

headed and Brewer's Blackbirds in considerable numbers during migration, while Bronzed Grackles and Thick-billed Red-wings are common summer residents, nesting in Wilson Park. Last year two Starlings were reported in the yard of a Chadron resident. No nest or young were reported but the two birds were often seen. This is the first report of Starlings in Chadron that has come to my attention.

Birds we saw during the winter just passed and know to be regular winter residents include the Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker (subsp.), Red-shafted Flicker, Slate-colored Junco as well as juncos of other species commonly called "Black-headed Juncos" here, Long-tailed Chickadee and both Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings which come into town in numbers to feed on the Russian Olive and Cedar trees. Fewer waxwings were reported during the last winter, however. We had a lone robin that stayed all winter and we saw it nearly every week having a bath in the warm water we provide for it in the back yard. We had a lone Townsend's Solitaire that spent the past two winters here. Horned Larks (subsp.) were seen along the highways all winter. Nuthatches and Creepers (subsp.) were seen very late last fall and again in the early spring so I assume they also spend the winter here. The American Magpie stays here the whole year.

The largest list of birds seen during any one season here that I can recall, is 86 forms. We see many water birds at the Whitney irrigation dam at the right times of year, gulls, Avocets, curlews, Killdeers and many others. Both Black-crowned Night Herons and Great Blue Herons have been here. The week end of May 8 was early here for a spring field day for so many migrants have not yet arrived. The wrens seldom arrive before May 12 or later, and vireos, Western Tanagers, American Redstarts and flycatchers do not come till later. The Eastern Cardinal has been reported from several reliable sources but neither Mr. Blinco nor myself have been lucky enough to see one. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is also occasionally reported from this section but again I have not been fortunate enough to see one. Bullock's and Orchard Orioles are regulars with us while the Baltimore Oriole seldom appears.—MRS. GEORGE BLINCO, Chadron, Nebr.

**Notes from Logan County.**—On May 17, as I approached a lagoon in the southeastern part of Logan County, I observed three Black-crowned Night Herons and two birds which I believed to be willets. I stopped and threw a clod into the water with the result that the willets and herons rose to a height of about fifty feet. The black and white markings on the undersides of the wings of the smaller birds verified my identification of the Western Willets and I turned to go back to my car. Just then a Duck Hawk appeared on the scene, hovered for a split second over the herons, apparently choosing his prey, then dived, coming down on one of the herons from the rear. With surprising swiftness and perfect timing the

heron attained a vertical position in the air and turned its head so that the beak was pointing directly toward the hawk. This position was attained when the hawk was about a foot from the heron. At that instant the beak opened and out came the most blood-curdling squawk that I have ever heard from one of our feathered friends. Disaster for this heron was averted. The Duck Hawk rose, hovered, and struck again at another heron and the procedure which resulted was identical with the first attempt. After four such attempts the Duck Hawk left without his prey. During the half minute or so that this drama in the air was unfolding, the willets were circling about constantly emitting high-pitched, bell-toned, frightened cries. When the Duck Hawk left the scene the herons settled down by the side of the lagoon but the willets left for quieter environment. This was the most exciting half minute I have ever spent with the birds.

On the afternoon of May 30 my two boys and I visited King's Hill in eastern Logan County. While climbing the steep side of the hill we discovered a pair of Say's Phoebes (*Sayornis saya*). They were very much excited by our presence so we suspected they were nesting in the vicinity. Later I observed one of the birds coming out of a small cave about half way up the almost perpendicular side of the hill. The nest was found about shoulder high in a small cavity hollowed out of the side of the cave. Young birds were present in the nest. This is the first nesting record we have for the Say's Phoebe in this vicinity.—EARL W. GLANDON, *Stapleton, Nebr.*

**Occurrence of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Lewis's Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak and Other Birds of Interest in Adams and Hall Counties.**—The first record of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron for the Hastings vicinity was April 10, 1939 (*antea*, vii, p. 28), when this bird was observed at close range by Mrs. A. M. Jones and myself. The identifying crown with plumes and the patch of creamy white under the eye were marks plainly visible. It was not again recorded in this vicinity until April 22, 1943, and then by Mrs. A. M. Jones, Mrs. A. M. Brooking and myself. The heron "squawk" was heard as the bird flew up from the ground near us and into a tree. We followed it for some distance. On both dates it was seen at the same place: the "hollow" or gully of Parkview Cemetery. Again this year at Crystal Lake, twelve miles south of town, I discovered a male in full plumage standing quietly in a marshy place about 100 feet from a table where six of us had been picnicking at 5:45 P.M. The western sun illuminated the bird's coloring beautifully and the reflection in the water was nearly as clear in detail as the bird itself. All six of us watched it stalking about in the marsh for about ten minutes as we stood concealed back of the trees. Then the heron calmly flew into a nearby tree.

The Lewis's Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewis*) was seen May 30 by Mr. Wm. Jaques near the Platte River, sixteen miles north of Hastings in Hall County. This is the first record of this species for

this vicinity. Mr. Jaques is familiar with this bird in Colorado and noted all its markings and the peculiarity of its flight so there can be no doubt about the identification. Some years ago Mr. Black reported this species from Kearney, Buffalo County.

A male Evening Grosbeak wintered in the east part of Hastings in the yard of Miss Nelle Rowe. It was last seen April 1 when I saw it at the bird bath in my yard where it remained for some time.

The Cedar Waxwings were last seen on May 9 and the Red-breasted Nuthatches on April 26. We have had an unusual number of Lazuli Buntings this season.—MRS. A. H. JONES, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**Occurrence of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Other Birds of Interest in Sarpy County.**—On May 23 a group of bird students were making observations in the vicinity of Horseshoe Lake at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County. We saw two herons fly out from the tall trees growing in the bottoms south of the lake and alight in the swamp. At first glance we all saw that the birds were neither Great Blue Herons nor Black-crowned Night Herons and readily identified them as Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*). This observation was made from the railroad track between the forest and the lake. The previous evening a group of 29 persons had visited this same spot to hear the whip-poor-will chorus and were not disappointed for at least six whip-poor-wills were heard and one of them seen at close range. Eight persons saw the Yellow-crowned Night Herons. They were: Dr. and Mrs. Fred-eric D. Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Winslade, Mrs. Walter A. Gannon, Mrs. F. W. Haecker and ourselves. Other interesting occurrences of the day included the observation and identification of the Kentucky Warbler, and the finding of a Louisiana Water-Thrush which was in full song. This bird sang loud and persistently for nearly an hour.—R. ALLYN MOSER and F. W. HAECKER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**Notes From Lincoln.**—Miss Mary McGahey reported that they had a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches in their yard all winter. Miss Louisa Wilson has advised that the following birds of interest visited her yard during the past season: a pair of Arctic Towhees first seen on October 14 have remained all winter, a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets were noted often during January, a Harris's Sparrow appeared on March 27 and also 6 or 8 Northern Pine Siskins on this same date, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were first seen on April 8th, a Black and White Warbler was noted on April 20, and an Eastern Fox Sparrow on April 22, the Lincoln's Sparrow was first seen on May 1 and the Clay-colored Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow on May 2, a Song Sparrow (subsp.) and Gambel's Sparrow were observed in the yard on May 6 and a pair of Magnolia Warblers and an Alder and Least Flycatcher as well as an Eastern Hermit Thrush and Olive-backed Thrush on May 13; the Eastern Sa-

vannah Sparrow, Nashville Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Willow Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Oven-bird and Grinnell's Water-Thrush were seen on May 14, the Tennessee Warbler appeared on May 22 and the Yellow-breasted Chat and Northern Pine Warbler on May 27.

On May 12 there was a considerable flight of Gray-cheeked and Olive-backed Thrushes, for Miss Wilson, Mrs. George Smith and Mrs. Young all phoned to tell me that they had these birds in their yards and they appeared in my own yard as well where 6 or 8 stayed for almost a week. I saw them at many places about town and believe there were more here this season than there have been for many years. The usual birds of winter and early spring were present in my yard during the past season but no rare visitors appeared. The Screech Owl (subsp.) was seen on April 11 and the Eastern Fox Sparrow on April 21. I also saw the Magnolia Warbler and Harris's Sparrow on May 5 and a Song Sparrow (subsp.) on May 14.—JANE B. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

**An American Knot Visits Omaha, Douglas County.**—Early in the evening of May 10, 1943, I was advised by Dr. R. A. Moser that a shore bird of unusual appearance had been observed by him that morning at George's Lake in residential Omaha, and that he did not have the time when he first saw it, to study the bird sufficiently to determine its identification. At his suggestion we visited the lake just before sun-down and again saw the wader he had previously seen. Walking around to the west side of the lake, with the sun at our backs, we put the bird in the most favorable light and watched it at close quarters through our binoculars. It was a sandpiper entirely new to me and one that Dr. Moser had seen only once before in fall plumage on the Atlantic coast. Its identity as an American Knot (*Calidris canutus rufus*) was easily determined, as we were able to approach to within a few feet of the bird and watch it under extremely favorable light conditions. The knot paid no attention to us whatever, it was busy spearing flies that hovered a few inches above the surface of the water and did not seem to be having a great deal of success. The insects appeared to be quicker than the bird, and it often whirled around in an amusing manner suggestive of a dog chasing its tail. Aside from a few Rough-winged Swallows it was the only bird about the pond and we gathered that fear of man was an experience unknown as yet to this great traveler. Occasionally it would run directly toward us in its pursuit of an insect. Miss Alice Von Bergen also observed this bird during its one day stay at George's Lake and so far as we can determine this is the first Nebraska record of the American Knot since August Eiche took a specimen at Lincoln on August 27, 1896.—F. W. HAECKER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**Notes From Hall County.**—The heaviest migration of Sandhill Cranes that has been noted in several years has been recorded

this season along the Platte River in the vicinity of the Alda Bridge west of Grand Island in Hall County. We visited this locality on March 27 and found an unusually heavy concentration of these birds. One flock contained at least five hundred individuals and many other equally large flocks were in sight up and down the stream. Just whether or not this is a local concentration due to the presence of various flying fields at other places is not known. Mr. C. A. Black of Kearney informs us that there are not many cranes in that section this season. Most of the birds observed by us were performing their courtship dance.

On June 17 two Western Grebes were observed swimming in the Platte River west of the Alda Bridge.—MR. AND MRS. A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings, Nebr.*

**Notes From Lincoln County.**—A Mourning Warbler was brought to me on May 22 after it had been found dead by one of the children in North Platte and taken to the teacher. Miss Doris Gates, biology teacher in North Platte High School, made a skin of the specimen and it is now in the high school collection. This is the first record of the Mourning Warbler for Lincoln County although we have had a number of records of the Macgillivray's Warbler in this county.

Quite a flock of Purple Martins descended on North Platte June 4 and remained three or four days. They twittered and flew about the downtown streets, darting in and out among the buildings and autos. The temperature was low all day and there were no insects flying. It is thought they found insects in the warmer air over the pavements and about the business blocks. This has never happened here before.—WILSON TOUT, *North Platte, Nebr.*

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**Doctor's Degree Awarded to John T. Zimmer.**—One of our past active members and officers and present honorary member has been granted the degree, Doctor of Science, by the University of Nebraska. We think it is very fitting that this honor has been given John T. Zimmer, an alumnus of the University of Nebraska, B.Sc. '10, M.A. '11. By doing this the University recognizes an outstanding graduate who has become one of the leading authorities in his chosen field. Dr. Zimmer was, after graduation, Field Expert in Entomology at the Experiment Station at Nebraska until late in 1913 and for most of 1913 was Collaborator of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology. From 1913 to 1917 he was Assistant Entomologist of the Bureau of Agriculture of the Philippine Islands. From 1917 to 1921, Agricultural Expert, Department of Agriculture, Papua (Port Moresby). For a few months in 1921, Assistant at the University Museum, Lincoln. 1922-1930, Assistant Curator of Birds, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. 1930-1935, Associate Curator of Birds of the Western Hemisphere, American Museum of Natural History; 1935,



Acting Curator, Dept. of Ornithology; 1935-1942, Executive Curator; 1942- , Curator. Dr. Zimmer is at present editor of THE AUK, published by the American Ornithologists' Union. This is the foremost ornithological publication in North America and at present no doubt the leading ornithological publication in the world.—R. ALLYN MOSER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

**The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America\***.—Hunters, conservationists and bird students of Nebraska will all welcome this outstanding work on the ducks, geese and swans of North America. In the first sentence of the foreword Mr. Kortright states that he is not an ornithologist and this is the only inaccurate statement this reviewer has found in this exceptional volume. Devoted to one family of North American birds, the Anatidae, this book most adequately covers its subject. The chapter on sex and age determination is unique among available ornithological literature and gives easily understood information not readily obtained elsewhere. The treatment of scientific names is informative and refreshing. Mr. Kortright explains the importance and significance of the Latin names and goes far toward removing the bugaboo which these names too often present to laymen bird students and sportsmen. The correct pronunciation of the Latin name of each species is given and also its meaning and derivation. An outline map of the North American continent including Greenland and Central America as well as extreme northwestern South America and an insert showing the Aleutian Islands is figured for each species and subspecies to show the breeding and winter ranges.

The illustrations in full color are superb. The male and female of each North American species and subspecies is figured separately and also their extended wings. In addition there are many colored illustrations of the birds in winter plumage and also in "eclipse" plumage. The colored plates showing the downy young of the different species are especially fine and present information not found elsewhere. There is even one color plate showing the commoner hybrids. Mr. Kortright, the author, and Mr. Shortt, the illustrator, are both comparative newcomers to the ornithological world. However, they have achieved a noteworthy and significant accomplishment with this meritorious book on the anatids. Both gentlemen are Canadians from Toronto, and we think it entirely fitting that men from Canada, the breeding ground of the vast majority of all American ducks and geese, should be the ones to produce this most scholarly and respected volume.—F. W. H.

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\*Kortright, Francis H.; illustrated by T. M. Shortt. American Wildlife Institute, Investment Bldg., Washington, D. C., 1942; viii plus, 476 pp., 36 color plates and many text figures. \$4.50 (de luxe edition \$10.00).

**A MESSAGE FROM N. O. U.'S PRESIDENT**

In the December 1942 issue of IOWA BIRD LIFE, in a note from the president, Martin L. Grant, he quotes the following:

When cities prod me with demands  
Of many minds and many hands . . . .  
And men bewilder men with words . . . .  
Gratefully I return to birds.

—*Louis Untermeyer.*

I am most certain that these lines more than ever before appeal to us members of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union that have, according to Dr. Arthur A. Allen's diagnosis, "warbleritis" or "thrushmania". We have discovered that the pleasure from, and interest in bird study can go on in our parks and easily accessible nearby areas, regardless of necessary transportation restrictions.

We are all in every way possible putting forth every effort that Right will survive and that Humanity will be victor over Barbarism. If, however, we occasionally follow the song of a bird, watch one in flight, or make notes on any of their life habits, we are not detracting from the war effort. We, on the contrary are given renewed and stronger faith, courage and hope to carry on for the future.

Such organizations as ours will keep alive the importance of conservation of wildlife and show the definite need to encourage its continuance. We will be prepared to pass on to coming generations knowledge of the importance, in the scheme of our existence, of all living things.

We are not unpatriotic in maintaining our interest in bird study and we should encourage others to take up this fascinating hobby. A new member to the N. O. U. will never rue the moments spent with the birds. He will thank you for helping create such an interest. I know editor Haecker would enjoy having notes and articles from more of you. Remember the BIRD REVIEW is *your* magazine and new contributions must come in from all parts of the state for it to continue as is stated, "A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region". There are many ornithological subjects or problems which could well be investigated and the results and findings published.

Our local groups should be strengthened and let us hope that soon "the lights will go on again all over the world" and we can once more get together.

R. ALLYN MOSER.

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Charles S. Ludlow, a member of the N. O. U. since 1912, passed away at his home on May 8th, 1943. Mr. Ludlow was 77 years of age at the time of his death and had lived on the same farm one-half mile north of Red Cloud, Nebraska, for the last 68 years of his life. Born at Bush Grove, Iowa, March 10, 1866, he came to Webster County with his parents in a covered wagon when he was seven years old. In the January 1935 issue of THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW Mr. Ludlow's migration records for 25 years of bird study at Red Cloud were published. He continued these notes till the time of his death and thus had continuous records for 34 years taken in one locality by the same observer. For the past 36 years he has given his services to the community and the state as a voluntary weather observer sending in thousands of reports continuously without omissions. On October 14, 1894, Mr. Ludlow was united in marriage with Susie Kaminsky, the marriage taking place in the house where they have always lived. Their three children were born in this same house and now there are four grandchildren who will greatly miss their grandfather who knew birds so well. Mrs. Charles Ludlow has kindly sent us Mr. Ludlow's spring migration records for 1943 which will be published with the cooperative migration lists in the next issue of this magazine. His last entry was made on April 26 when he records a pair of cowbirds seen. Mrs. Ludlow mentions what a beautiful day was May 8th at the time of his funeral at the same old house, and recalls how exceptionally the birds were singing at that particular time. She says she wished he could have heard them sing for he got such enjoyment from their music. The late Rev. J. M. Bates has said that Mr. Ludlow could recognize accurately more different bird calls than any other ornithologist in the state. Perhaps the birds that sang around the old Ludlow home that day knew that the expert ear which recognized them all so well had gone, but in his place were many others of younger generations taught by him to carry on.

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Frederick John Keller, who passed away May 13, 1943 at Bridgeport, Nebraska, was born at New Ulm, Minnesota, March 11, 1865, and grew to young manhood in that Minnesota community. He took early training in flour milling and wood working at New Ulm and later worked for the Pillsbury Flour Mills of Minneapolis while he attended the University of Minnesota. In 1889 he became head miller of the Norfolk Flour Mills at Norfolk, Nebraska, and after a number of years there moved to Fremont where he erected the Brown Milling Company. He later moved to Marysville, Kansas. On August 2, 1912, because of ill health, he removed to the sandhills of Nebraska where he took a Kinkaid homestead. Mr. Keller's deep interest in wildlife began to expand while he was residing in the sandhills. The little ranch that Mr. and Mrs. Keller owned was in Garden County. They planted trees and shrubs and made great efforts to cultivate birds, especially the water fowl. When the bill was being pressed before Congress to allow the United States to acquire lands in various states to be used for refuges, Mr. and Mrs. Keller decided that northwestern Nebraska was a logical place for such a refuge. They got out petitions and made many maps, all of which were turned over to Congressman Robert Simmons who put them in the proper hands in Washington. The result was the surveyors were in Garden County working from the Kellers' maps before any blue prints were ever made. The final result of this was the Crescent Lake Game Refuge. During the years 1916 to 1941 Mr. and Mrs. Keller were very active in ornithological work. One year they reared 300 mallards in incubators and turned them over to the Government. After Mr. Keller's 60th birthday he became possessed with an idea to carve a Passenger Pigeon. He had hunted this bird long ago in Minnesota and wished others to know its beauty. Working entirely from memory, he produced a beautiful colored carving of this species which has been on exhibit at Joslyn Memorial in Omaha. His next carving was that of an Oregon Junco. In all he made over 800 wood carvings, a great many of them birds. Last September he started a group of wood carvings representing the "Pony Express". This was probably his finest piece of work and it is fortunate that he was able to finish it. On September 3, 1941, the Kellers moved to Bridgeport because of Mr. Keller's failing health. The last day of his life was spent in carving a dachshund. After his evening meal, he took a few steps to his desk, faltered, and immediately thereafter passed on. Mr. Keller became a member of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union in 1929 and has always been very active in its support. He is mourned by many friends and acquaintances throughout this state as well as many others. His was a record of a long and useful life devoted to doing good.

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## NEBRASKA BIRD CLUBS

### **Chadron—Inez Houghton Audubon Society**

Organized 1917  
President—Mrs. H. H. Camburn  
Vice-President—Mrs. L. C. Lindahl  
Sec'y-Treas.—Mrs. E. C. Byerly

### **Fairbury—Fairbury Nature Union**

Organized May, 1940. Formerly Nature Study Dept. of  
Fairbury Women's Club, organized in 1916  
President—Mrs. Charles Richardson  
Vice-President—Miss Agness Callaway  
Secretary—Miss Susie Callaway  
Treasurer—Miss Bertha Holly  
Publicity—Miss Margaret Chambers

### **Hastings—Brooking Bird Club**

Organized September 10, 1923  
President—Wm. Jaques  
Secretary—Mrs. A. M. Brooking

### **Lincoln—Lincoln Bird Club**

Organized April 2, 1940  
President—Mrs. W. S. Gulotta  
Sec'y-Treas.—Mrs. Claire Miles

### **North Platte—North Platte Bird Club**

Organized April, 1934  
President—Mrs. A. D. Middleton  
Vice-President—Mrs. Carl Hollman  
Sec'y-Treas.—Wilson Tout

### **Omaha—Omaha Nature Study Club**

Organized May, 1927  
President—Dr. Charles A. Stewart  
Vice-President—Dr. Frederic D. Garrett  
Sec'y-Treas.—L. O. Horsky

### **Superior—Garden Dept. of Superior Woman's Club**

Formerly Superior Bird Club, organized 1922