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THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

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Edited by Myron H. Swenk, 1410 North Thirty-seventh Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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CONTENTS

Page

Birds of the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge. By
Wilson Tout ........................................ 1

General Notes ........................................ 4

The Mourning Dove Case ......................... 23

Actual date of publication, April 20, 1938
BIRDS OF THE CRESCENT LAKE MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE

By WILSON TOUT

The Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge is located in Garden County, Nebraska, about twenty-five miles north of Oshkosh. Its longest distance from east to west is eighteen and one-half miles, and from north to south is twelve miles. It includes about 43,000 acres. It is composed of irregular pieces of land, some detached from the main body. Within it are a large number of lakes, including all or a part of Swan, Goose, Hackberry, Island, Bear, Gimlet, Martin, and many other lakes. Some of the smaller lakes are not named and some disappear during dry seasons. Crescent Lake itself is not in the Refuge.

The Refuge was established to furnish a safe stopping place for birds during their migrations and a satisfactory breeding place for those which will stay there. The lakes are almost entirely free from trees or shrubs, but are bordered with rushes and cat-tails, and furnish fine nesting places for many kinds of ducks and other water birds. It is in a typical sand-hill region, being almost treeless. The Headquarters is near Gimlet Lake, where a grove of trees, mostly large willows, furnishes a fine setting for the modern home and other adequate buildings. Mr. Walter W. Bennett was the Refuge manager at the time of my visit. I spent the five days from June 22 to 26, 1937, inclusive, at the Refuge as his guest. From my notes I have made the following records of birds observed:

American Eared Grebe (Colymbus nigricollis californicus). Many seen, nearly all on one lake.

Western Grebe (Aechmophorus occidentalis). Many on one lake, where they kept to the water far from shore. No nests seen.

Treganza Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias treganza). Great Blue Herons, presumably this form, were seen on two occasions in the marsh land near the lakes.

American Black-crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli). Several seen, and I found one nest containing three eggs. It was in the rushes bordering a lake, surrounded by water and built up eighteen inches above the water level on a lot of dead rushes.

American Bittern (Botaurus lentiginosus). Seen on several days in different parts of the Refuge. I found a nest containing four eggs on the ground in the sweet clover only a short distance from the Headquarters and 200 yards from the lake shore. We flushed the bird from the nest each day when making the rounds of the nests.

Eastern Least Bittern (Ixobrychus minutus exilis). I saw a nest containing three eggs in the rushes on the shore of one of the lakes. It was a foot or more above water and fastened to the rushes much like a platform. The bird was not seen, but was heard close by.

Canada Goose (Branta canadensis subsp.). There were eight of these birds on one of the lakes, some having nested there. Some of them at least were descendants of Canada Geese which had been captured by hunters and used for decoys before they were prohibited by law. They were
released on the lakes, and while they are wild birds they are not so wild as those which migrate from the North each year.

Common Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos). Seen a number of times on different lakes. I visited one nest which was under observation, and which was located at the top of a hill in a yucca plant, one-half mile from the lake. Another nest was in some sweet clover in a meadow not far from the Headquarters.

Gadwall (Chenonetta strepera). A number seen in pairs and in small flocks, and while I did not see any nests, Mr. Bennett has found them nesting there repeatedly.

Baldpate (Mareca americana). These ducks were noted on several lakes at different times, although no nests were seen.

American Pintail (Anas acuta). Seen a number of times on different lakes. I visited one nest which was under observation and which was located at the top of a hill in a yucca plant, one-half mile from the lake. Another nest was in some sweet clover in a meadow not far from the Headquarters.

Green-winged Teal (Nettiona carolinensis). A pair was under observation on two different days on a lake several miles from Headquarters, and, while acting like mated birds, we were unable to see them leave the water.

Blue-winged Teal (Querquedula discors). This duck was seen often and in larger numbers than any other. I saw a pair with eight little ones only a few days old on one lake.

Shoveller (Spatula clypeata). Mostly in pairs and seen on different lakes, but I did not see a nest. Not so numerous as some other kinds of ducks.

Lesser Scaup (Nyroca affinis). Several males seen but no nests found.

Redhead (Nyroca americana). Not so many Redheads as there were of some other ducks, but I saw two nests one morning, both in the rushes and surrounded by water.

Canvas-back (Nyroca valisneria). Two males noted but there were others there, as they are not rare even during the nesting season.

Northern Ruddy Duck (Eriamatura jamaicensis rubida). Noted it on several of the lakes at different times, but saw no nests.

Marsh Hawk (Circus hudsonius). A nest was under observation in a marshy meadow near the Headquarters.

Greater Prairie Chicken (Tympanuchus cupido americanus). We flushed one individual, and Mr. Bennett said it was the first that he had seen for several days. I talked with one of the men who was working on the Refuge, and he said Prairie Chickens are becoming fewer each year.

Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus). A small flock kept our attention one morning as the individuals ran about on a sandy shore, but they left in a flock so we presumed they were not nesting there.

Northern Killdeer (Oxychites vociferus). Noted on each lake and in other places. One nest was visited which was close to the track in the gravelled highway and another was in the middle of the same road. Both were marked and protected with stones after they were found. I noted another nest on the shore line of one of the lakes.

Southern Long-billed Curlew (Numenius americanus americanus). Seen on a number of trips and sometimes we must have been near their nesting grounds for they would dash at us and give the call of distress and challenge.

Upland Plover (Charadrius longicauda). Once on the shore of one of the lakes I saw this bird feeding, and once I saw it on a fence post as we passed.

Western Willet (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus). Common and often seen individually or in flocks of from three to ten.

Lesser Yellow-legs (Totanus flavipes). Several presumably non-breeding individuals appeared on the lake shore while I was there.

Avocet (Recurvirostra americana). These beautiful birds were seen quite often. I found a nest with four eggs on the gravelly shore of one
BIRDS OF THE CRESCENT LAKE REFUGE  

The nest was nicely made of grass, leaves and rushes, but was not near any growing vegetation. Wilson Phalarope (Steganopus tricolor). A large number seen, and while nests are not unusual, I did not see any. They were usually in small flocks, although individuals and pairs were noted. Most of those seen were males, indicating many non-breeding birds. Bonaparte Gull (Larus philadelphia). One flew over a lake we were visiting and hovered near so we got a close view of it. Forster Tern (Sterna forsteri). There were many terns on the lakes, and most of them this species. I saw as many as fifty feeding at one time on one lake, but I did not see any of their nests. American Black Tern (Chlidonias niger surinamensis). I estimated there were about as many Black Terns on one lake as there were Forster Terns, while on some lakes I would see only Forster Terns and on some only Black Terns. I did not observe any nests. Western Mourning Dove (Zenaidura macroura marginella). Western Mourning Doves were all over the Refuge. I saw one nest which had been built under the roof above the door inside an abandoned shed. One of the parents was found dead one morning, and the next day the other was dead. The temperatures both days stood near the 100° mark, and we thought they had both died from the heat. Western Burrowing Owl (Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea). I saw these birds at two points on the Refuge. Sennett Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor sennetti). When I wandered into the hills near the Headquarters at noon one day, a pair of Sennett Nighthawks flew very near me, and I heard one of them “booming” on several occasions. Once we passed one on the top of a fence post by the roadside. Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus). Several near the Headquarters, and I saw others in other parts of the Refuge. Arkansas Kingbird (Tyrannus verticalis). Several seen about the grove at Headquarters and in other places, especially along the telephone line. Rocky Mountain Say Phoebe (Sayornis saya saya). One seen twice in the same place. Saskatchewan Horned Lark (Otocoris alpestris enthymania). Many on the Refuge, and I often saw them on the sandy shores of the lakes, where they seemed to be feeding. Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica). A pair had a nest in one of the buildings at Headquarters, and the last day I was there I saw fresh mud on the outside of the nest. American Magpie (Pica pica hudsonia). One individual was seen in flight. Eastern Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos). Not common. Prairie Marsh Wren (Telmatodytes palustris dissimilis). I found this wren on each of the lakes I visited. It was in the rushes on the lake shore, where numerous nests were found. Most of the nests were complete except for the lining. I found one with four eggs and one with five eggs. Olive-backed Swainson Thrush (Hylocichla sultulata swainsoni). Mr. Bennett reported identifying one, and the next morning I saw a thrush, but did not get close enough to make certain identification, but I accept his record as unquestioned. Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus subsp.). Heard in the trees at the Headquarters. I saw one there but could not distinguish the subspecies. Eastern Yellow Warbler (Dendroica aestiva aestiva). Seen at Headquarters, gathering down from dandelion and often heard there, but not more than one pair.
Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). A male was seen, and both Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Tout observed it at close range.

Western Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*). Both males and females were seen and heard along the rushy borders of the lakes and in the marshy places.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). One seen at the Headquarters the last morning I was there, and Mr. Bennett stated that they had been seen there previously from time to time.

Eastern Common Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). We heard a song one day which Mr. Bennett said was that of *magna*.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). Seen and heard commonly in all parts of the Refuge that we visited.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Common in some places, and a large flock of about fifty was seen on one occasion. I found numbers of their nests on the lake borders, but no eggs or young birds.

Thick-billed Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*). Common over the whole lake region. I found one nest containing five eggs and the men reported finding a number of other nests.

Cowbird (*Molothrus ater* subsp.). Only once identified, and that was a male on a fence wire.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Not as common as I had expected it to be, but seen and heard on a number of occasions.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis* subsp.). Several pairs seen at Headquarters, and were often heard there.

Lark Bunting (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*). Not a common bird, but several were identified.

North Platte, Nebr.

GENERAL NOTES

**Some Recent Range Extensions of the European Starling in Nebraska.**—During the summer and fall of 1937 I saw the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) in several Nebraska localities from which it had not previously been reported. In the vicinity of Hastings, Adams County, between June 6 and 9, I saw several of these birds, including one flock of five individuals. On June 13, I saw one near Genoa, Nance County. On October 8, I saw a flock of eight individuals one mile west of Houston, York County, and another flock of six was seen four miles south and four miles east of St. Michael, Buffalo County. Although not representing a new locality for the species, I might add also that I saw a flock of ten of these birds within the city limits of Lincoln on October 2.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.

**An European Starling Found in the Basement of a House.**—On the morning of October 13, 1937, on going into the basement of my home at 2827 South 24th Street, my maid reported the presence of a bird. We captured and caged it, and it proved to be an European Starling. Aside from the absence of several tail-feathers on the right side, the bird appeared perfectly normal in every way. It is a mystery to me how the bird effected its entrance into the basement. The specimen has been preserved in the Zoology Department of the University of Nebraska collection.—MRS. W. E. BARKLEY, Lincoln, Nebr.

*The European Starling has spread rapidly over the eastern half of Nebraska during 1937-38, as is attested by this and the following record notes. In future numbers of the Review only new localities of its spread will be recorded.—Ed.*
An European Starling Captured Roosting in a Barn.—Shortly after dark on the night of October 27, 1937, on entering the barn at our residence at 7615 Leighton Street with a lantern, a bird was startled from its roost and began to fly about. It was captured and caged, and on closer examination was found to be an European Starling. This specimen has been preserved in the collection of the Zoology Department of the University of Nebraska.—Miss Bertha White, Lincoln, Nebr.

The European Starling and Other Birds at Lincoln, Lancaster County.—On October 10, 1937, I saw three or four migrating Bobolinks at Lincoln. During the last few days in September, and up to and including October 1, there were troops of Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets about my home at 5103 South 35th Street. Northern Pine Siskins were noted on November 26, 1937. On December 26, 1937, I saw three European Starlings near my home. By January 9, 1938, the Starlings had increased to a flock of between thirty and forty birds.—Miss Louisa Wilson, Lincoln, Nebr.

A Flock of Wintering European Starlings in Lincoln, Lancaster County.—On January 15, 1938, I counted twenty-six European Starlings in a back yard near 40th and Sheridan Streets, within the Lincoln city limits. The bird seems to be increasing in this vicinity very rapidly.—L. H. Watson, Lincoln, Nebr.

Another Wintering Flock of European Starlings in Lincoln, Lancaster County.—About January 15, 1938, I saw a flock of six European Starlings on the campus at Wesleyan University in Lincoln. Two were again seen on February 17 following, and subsequently, which pair is evidently preparing to nest this spring on the campus.—Mrs. Dwight Thomas, Lincoln, Nebr.

Another Wintering Record of the European Starling in Lincoln, Lancaster County.—On January 30, 1938, I saw a flock of ten European Starlings on my residence property and elsewhere in the neighborhood. They were shy, not allowing my approach closer than within about thirty feet.—David C. Hilton, Lincoln, Nebr.

More European Starlings at Lincoln, Lancaster County.—On February 21, 1938, I saw a flock of six European Starlings on the campus of the University of Nebraska.—Raymond Roberts, Lincoln, Nebr.

A March Flock of the European Starling at Lincoln, Lancaster County.—On the evening of March 4, 1938, I saw a flock of between twenty-five and thirty European Starlings just north of the College of Agriculture campus in Lincoln.—Myron H. Swenk, Lincoln, Nebr.

The European Starling at Omaha, Douglas County.—European Starlings were noted on several occasions at Omaha during the winter of 1937-38. On November 21 and 25, 1937, a flock of six of these birds visited our home grounds at 60th and Franklin Streets. Mr. William Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Gates and Mrs. Swenk, I saw a small flock of seven or eight European Starlings and a little farther on a pair on an old tree stub, all along the roadside just north of Uehling, Dodge County.—Myron H. Swenk, Lincoln, Nebr.

The European Starling in Cuming County.—Early in December of 1937 an European Starling was captured near here and kept in captivity until it died on December 9. This is my first contact with this species in Cuming County. The specimen was sent to the University of Nebraska for preservation.—J. R. Watson, County Agricultural Agent, West Point, Nebr.
Another Cuming County Record for the European Starling.—A press dispatch from Wisner, Cuming County, published January 4, 1938, states that an European Starling was caught in the basement of the John Nuenenberger home in that town, and subsequently kept in a cage for observation by Miss Bertha Maloney of that place. It had gotten into the basement by going down the chimney and through the furnace pipe into the soot chamber. The account stated that this was the first time that the species had been found in the Wisner vicinity.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

The European Starling Near Wayne, Wayne County.—During a snowstorm in the winter of 1935-36, a flock of six European Starlings came to the farm of my father, Mr. True Prescott, three and one-half miles southwest of Wayne, Wayne County, and roosted each night in the hay loft of the barn for a period. One was killed by a cat, thus enabling accurate identification. A flock of about the same size returned in the winter of 1936-37. These are the first records known to me of the Starling for the Wayne vicinity.—R. T. PRESCOTT, Lincoln, Nebr.

The European Starling in Johnson and Clay Counties.—On February 6, 1938, I saw an European Starling at Sterling, Johnson County, and at the same time and place saw two Western Meadowlarks. On February 24, in Clay County, I identified three Starlings in with a flock of Horned Larks (subsp.) near Sutton, and a little west of that place one lone Starling, while a little later on the same day, south of Saranville, I noted a flock of fifteen Starlings.—O. S. BARE, Lincoln, Nebr.

The European Starling Population in Nebraska Rapidly Increasing.—Last fall (1937) a considerable flock of European Starlings wintered in the cupola of a barn on a farm near to my farm in York County, Nebraska. They were very wary. Recently it seems that many additional flocks have put in an appearance in southern Nebraska. During the last two weeks in February of 1938 I saw flocks between Lincoln, Lancaster County, and Beatrice, Gage County; both to the east and to the west of Hastings, Adams County; and, on February 24, along the road while driving the approximately forty miles distance between Lincoln and Friend, I saw a total of twelve different flocks of these birds—two flocks between Lincoln and Dorchester, Saline County, and ten flocks between Dorchester and Friend, Saline County—more than I have ever before seen in Nebraska. They seem to be coming into the state very rapidly now.—W. H. LYTLE, Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, Lincoln, Nebr.

The European Starling Present in Abundance in Nuckolls County.—On December 8, 1937, a Mrs. Henderson living on a farm six miles east of Superior, Nuckolls County, brought a specimen of the European Starling to me. She stated that a flock of several hundred of these birds was then congregating in the barn on their farm and proving to be considerable of a nuisance.—MRS. H. C. JOHNSTON, Superior, Nebr.

Wintering European Starlings Greatly Increasing in Adams County.—Since early in November, 1937, European Starlings have been present by the hundreds in the vicinity of Hastings, Adams County. Mr. Donald Karr reports to me that he has seen flocks of them every time that he has been afield recently. At the present time (December 10, 1937), their greatest center of abundance seems to be around Juniata, in the north-central part of the county.—A. M. BROOKING, Hastings Municipal Museum, Hastings, Nebr.

The European Starling in Kearney County.—On November 22, 1937, Mr. Merle Johnson of Kearney noted a pair of European Starlings trying to get into the barn on his father's farm in Kearney County seven miles south of the city of Kearney. He shot the male bird and brought it to me. This is the first record known to me of the occurrence of this species in Kearney County.—CYRUS A. BLACK, Kearney, Nebr.
More European Starlings in Kearney County.—The European Starling has been seen in small flocks during the winter of 1937-38 for the first time in and around Newark, Kearney County.—V. W. Binderup, Minden, Nebr.

The European Starling Present in Flocks Near Kearney, Buffalo County.—During the second week in January, 1938, I saw a flock of European Starlings near Kearney, which is the farthest west I personally have observed them. I expect that the species will follow the Platte Valley into western Nebraska.—A. M. Brooking, Hastings Municipal Museum, Hastings, Nebr.

The European Starling Spreads West to Lincoln County.—About five o'clock on the evening of December 13, 1937, at the Experiment Station near North Platte, Lincoln County, I saw a flock of twenty to twenty-five birds that appeared to be composed of European Starlings. The birds were very suspicious and hard to approach, but I managed to get close enough to make certain of the identification and to collect a specimen, which I preserved for the Biology Department of the North Platte High School. After once shooting into the flock and collecting a specimen, I was not able again to approach the flock nearly closely enough to secure a second specimen.—Harry E. Weakly, Experiment Station, North Platte, Nebr.

Addendum to the History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Nebraska.—In that installment of my History of Nebraska Ornithology dealing with the Lewis and Clark Expedition (antea, iii, pp. 115-125), I inadvertently overlooked mentioning that Captain Clark (Orig. Journ., vii, “Codex N”, p. 122), in recording the presence of the Western Fox Squirrel as high up the river as “The Tower” in Boyd County, four miles below the present Nebraska-South Dakota boundary, noted that the “Missouri Whipperwill”, by which he means the Eastern Whip-poor-will (Antrostomus vociferus vociferus), “is the common attendant of these squirrels”. This brings the number of birds recorded for Nebraska by the Lewis and Clark Expedition to twenty-one.—Myron H. Swenk, Lincoln, Nebr.

The Eastern Great Horned Owl in Southern Gage County.—Apropos of the discussion of the Great Horned Owl by Prof. Swenk in the October, 1937, number of the Review (antea, v, pp. 79-105), I wish to report that the Eastern Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus virginianus) is a not uncommon resident along the Big Blue River and its tributary streams in southern Gage County. Last March we located a nest of this owl that contained a single downy young bird. I saw one of these owls just recently, during the last week in October, 1937. All of the Great Horned Owls that I have seen here have the strong tawny general coloration that is characteristic of the Eastern subspecies.—Mrs. F. J. Patton, Blue Springs, Nebr.

Some Additional Observations on the Races of the Great Horned Owl.—Among several comments that were received regarding my study of the distribution and migration of the Great Horned Owls in the Missouri Valley region (antea, v, pp. 79-105), some of the most interesting were received from Dr. Louis B. Bishop of Pasadena, California. Under date of November 9 he has written me as follows: “I have been interested in the Great Horned Owls for many years and have some 200 skins in my collection. I have long held that many races of this owl wander widely in winter, and your series of records of identified birds proves this. Had I known of your study I might have added a few records. From North Dakota I have three specimens of subarcticus (Arctic Great Horned Owl) and ten specimens of occidentalis (Western Great Horned Owl). From Roseau County in northwestern Minnesota I have nine specimens of subarctica, thirteen specimens of occidentalis, and one each of virginianus (Eastern Great Horned Owl), lagophonus (Northwestern Great Horned Owl), and poliocephalus (Horned Owl).”
Horned Owl), and saturatus (Dusky Great Horned Owl), all collected by P. O. Fryklund. I was surprised to learn that so many lagophonus travel so far south (as Nebraska) in winter, and still more of your (Nebraska) records of pallescens (Pallid Great Horned Owl). This last form I have never seen from east and north of Utah, New Mexico and southern Idaho. But then I recognize a color difference between this race and occidentalis, as well as size. Pallescens to me is a paler, buffier bird, with far less contrast between the light and dark portions of the plumage, and the form of the southwestern deserts, common into California east of the Sierras and in the Mojave Desert.

In this connection, it should be made clear that pallescens, as above defined by Dr. Bishop, probably does not occur in Nebraska. His definition is of the Pallid Great Horned Owl in its strictest interpretation, with a range largely confined to the southwestern desert areas. But if size alone is taken as a criterion, proceeding northward from New Mexico and southwestern Texas it becomes difficult to establish the line where true pallescens ends, for scarcely larger birds occur north to southwestern Kansas; and it is this latter interpretation of pallescens that was used by the writer in his paper. Following the receipt of Dr. Bishop’s letter, however, the small Great Horned Owl taken near Holstein, Adams County, Nebraska, on December 7, 1933, which was referred to by the writer to pallescens (p. 100), has been secured and carefully re-studied, with the conclusion that, in spite of its very small size, the original identification of this specimen as a “dark-colored example of Bubo virginianus occidentalis” (antea, ii, p. 7) is the more logical one, and the Nebraska record of pallescens based upon it is therefore withdrawn. The Saunders County specimen was both small and pale-colored, and, for the present at least, its identification as a post-breeding season wandering individual of pallescens will be permitted to stand.—MYRON H. SWENK, Lincoln, Nebr.

An Explanation of the Local Variations Occurring in the Great Horned Owls.—In connection with the point of the occurrence of different subspecies of the Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) in the same locality, I may state that I have been gathering material to study these owls for some time, but specializing on breeding birds, which I think is the only material it is safe to use in studying some of these difficult subspecies. I find, as M. H. Swenk has indicated in his paper in the October, 1937, number of the Review, that in winter these birds wander very widely. Almost any subspecies can then be taken almost anywhere. The surprise is that occasionally these winter wanderers remain to breed in localities far from their natural range. They thus set up foci of heterogeneity in local races that may persist for several generations, if not indefinitely. This seems to be the explanation of the extraordinary variation that these owls present. I find four well-marked subspecies across Canada, but every here and there are breeding individuals that present characters quite foreign to the generality of the local race. I have several complete families, young with parents, and the way the offspring “throw” is ample evidence of the mixed though perhaps recessive genes in the parents. I doubt if many, perhaps any, of these birds are of pure line strain without more or less concealed potentialities of other races. In many ways I find the species parallels in extensive mongrelization what I made out in the Red-tailed Hawks.

It is really not so surprising that birds occasionally breed outside their natural habitat. The surprise would be if they did not. We know the homing instinct is strong in migrant species. But the movements of these big owls is more an irregular wandering than any fixed migration. I doubt that their migratory reflexes are as well fixed as in more regularly migratory species, or that the homing instinct is as highly developed. That northern birds of late breeding date finding themselves in an actively breeding community should occasionally mate with resident birds
of another race is quite to be expected. It would only have to happen occasionally to present the instability of the type postulated. All of which may be speculative, but I do not think that current systematic ornithology has paid enough attention to the teaching of modern genetics.—P. A. TAVENER, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Can.

Bird Notes from Battle Creek, Madison County.—The Pinion Jays (Cyanoccephalus cyanoccephalus) that I first noted at Battle Creek on January 18 and 24, 1937 (antea, v. p. 33), remained through the rest of the winter and were frequent visitors at our place. I also heard of American Magpies (Pica pica hudsonia) having been seen repeatedly during the winter of 1936-37, one man reporting a number of them among some Eastern Crows. One of my pupils living near the Elkhorn River reported that Eastern Cardinals (Richmondæa cardinalis cardinalis) appeared around their house during the snowy weather, and after they had built a feeding place for them among some vines as many as six pairs came to feed. Once during the winter I noted a Cedar Waxwing, and one day this spring large flocks of migrating Eastern Slate-colored Juncoes and Eastern Chipping Sparrows were noted in our yard, and numerous Franklin Gulls were noted on April 28, 1937.—MOLLIE A. TAYLOR, Battle Creek, Nebr.

An Unusually Heavy Migration of Blue and Lesser Snow Geese Up the Missouri River in the Spring of 1937.—During March and early April of 1937, the Blue Geese and Lesser Snow Geese came up the flood plain of the Missouri River Valley in seemingly greater numbers than anyone that I have talked to can remember. Certainly the flocks of these geese were the largest, and included the most individual birds of these species that I have noted during the past ten years that I have spent on the river. A small flock of about twenty Blue Geese and one Lesser Snow Goose lingered near Blue Lake, Monona County, Iowa, as late as April 15, and became so tame that one could park a car within 100 feet of them as they fed near the highway. Even honking the car horn would not make them fly. Of Canada Geese (subsp.) I noted only one flock this spring (1937), along the Missouri in Sarpy County on April 2. I noted the first Great Blue Heron (subsp.) on the river between Nemaha County, Nebraska, and Atchison County, Missouri, on March 29. Other noteworthy dates of arrival were a Savannah Sparrow (subsp.) in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, on April 1; an Eastern Phoebe in Harrison County, Iowa, on April 8; Lesser Yellow-legs and a Belted Kingfisher in Richardson County, Nebraska, on April 10; and a Vesper Sparrow (subsp.) in Burt County, Nebraska, on April 15.—F. W. HAECKER, Omaha, Nebr.

Some Missouri River Bird Notes for the Spring of 1937.—The following notes were made between mid-April and early June of 1937, chiefly along the Nebraska (N) and Iowa (I) sides of the Missouri River. A group of American Eared Grebes was noted along the river between Thurston County (N) and Monona County (I) on May 5. A Common Pied-billed Grebe was seen in Monona County (I) on May 6. White Pelicans were seen between Burt County (N) and Monona County (I) on April 27. An American Bittern was noted, and a few apparently uninjured Blue Geese were still present, in Monona County (I) on May 5. The first Shovelers were seen in Washington County (N) on April 17, and a flock of Northern Ruddy Ducks between Thurston (N) and Monona (I) Counties on May 5. The first Northern Turkey Vulture was seen in Nemaha County (N) on May 13. On May 18, a pair of Northern Red-shouldered Hawks were seen in Doniphan County, Kansas. Although I have kept a record on every hawk I have seen in the Missouri Valley for the past several years, I seem never to see more than two or three of this species in a year. My first Northern Broad-winged Hawk of the season was observed in northeastern Sarpy County (N) on April 18. On May 21, on a small bar in the river between Thurston (N) and Monona (I)
Counties, I noted a lone Black-bellied Plover in fine spring plumage. An Upland Plover was seen in Lincoln County, South Dakota, on June 4. The first Spotted Sandpipers were seen in Burt County (N), near Decatur, on May 12. Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in Monona County (I) on May 6 and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Nemaha County (N) on May 17. The first Franklin Gulls were seen between Thurston (N) and Monona (I) Counties on April 23. Forster Terns were noted in Nemaha County (N) on May 17, and Eastern Least Terns appeared on their nesting grounds, between Thurston (N) and Monona (I) Counties, on May 21. American Black Terns were noted on the river near Decatur (N) on May 12.

The first Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo was noted in Richardson County (N) on May 26. A Great Horned Owl (subsp.) was seen south of Omaha on May 9. The first Chimney Swifts were seen in Lancaster County (N) on May 2. The first Eastern Kingbird was seen in Nemaha County (N) on May 1, and the first Arkansas Kingbird in Monona County (I) on May 11. This latter species still seems to be working farther east every year. Bennett in his *Check-List of the Birds of Missouri* (1932) lists it as “casual and probably rare summer resident in Western Missouri”. Now it is quite common in northwestern Missouri. The Northern Crested Flycatcher and Least Flycatcher were noted south of Omaha on May 9. Tree Swallows were seen in Richardson County (N) on April 22, and the first Barn Swallow in Burt County (N) on May 4. The Western House Wren was first noted in Monona County (I) on May 6, the first Catbird in Doniphan County, Kansas, on May 14, and the first Brown Thrasher in Leavenworth County, Kansas, on April 31. Olive-backed Swainson Thrushes were numerous near Omaha on May 9. Cedar Waxwings were noted in Sarpy County (N) on April 16. A pair of European Starlings was found nesting in an old woodpecker hole in a dead willow tree near the bank of the river in Pottawattamie County (I) on April 30. There is one bird that you can find in full voice at any time during the late spring and summer on the willow bars along the Missouri River, and that is the Northern Bell Vireo. It seems to be the commonest bird of the willow bars. The Red-eyed Vireo was noted in Monona County (I) on May 6 and the Eastern Warbling Vireo in Pottawattamie County (I) on May 7.

On May 9, Hanscom Park in Omaha was overflowing with Tennessee Warblers, and many Ovenbirds and American Redstarts were seen south of Omaha in Sarpy County. The Yellow Warbler (subsp.) was noted in Monona County (I) on May 6, and the first Maryland Yellow-throat (subsp.) in Nemaha County on May 8. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were unusually plentiful the past spring along the Missouri River. I noted them first along the road of the South Omaha bridge approach in Pottawattamie County (I) on April 22, and afterwards saw many flocks along the Nebraska side of the river. The Baltimore Oriole was first seen in Pottawattamie County (I) on May 7, and the Orchard Oriole in Nemaha County (N) on April 18. My first Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak were seen south of Omaha on May 9. My first Indigo Bunting was seen in Doniphan County, Kansas, on May 14, and my first Dickcissel in Cass County (N) on May 7. I saw a Lark Bunting in McCook County, South Dakota, on June 4. The Eastern Lark Sparrow was seen in Pottawattamie County (I) on April 30, and Eastern Slate-colored Juncos still lingered in Monona County (I) on April 27, at which latter place and date the first Eastern Chipping Sparrows were seen. Clay-colored Sparrows abounded in Hanscom Park in Omaha on May 9. My first Field Sparrow (subsp.) was noted in Washington County (N) on April 17, and the White-throated Sparrow in Monona County (I) on May 6. —F. W. HAECKER, Omaha, Nebr.

The 1937 Bird Migration at Fairbury, Jefferson County.—Up to the close of June we had identified 147 species of birds in 1937 in the vicinity
of Fairbury, Jefferson County. On January 1 our list was started with the Marsh Hawk, Eastern Bob-white, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark (subsp.), Eastern Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), European Starling, Western Meadowlark, American Goldfinch (subsp.), and Tree Sparrow (subsp.). The Song Sparrow (subsp.) and Screech Owl (subsp.) were added on January 3 and 6, respectively. February additions were the Long-eared Owl and Northern Shrike (subsp.) on the 1st, the Northern Killdeer on the 15th, the Canada Goose (subsp.) on the 22nd, the Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Robin and Red-eyed Eastern Towhee on the 26th, and the Western Mourning Dove on the 27th. March additions were the Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker on the 2nd, Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.) on the 3rd, Common Mallard and Gadwall on the 7th, American Pintail, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Arctic Spotted Towhee on the 8th, White-fronted Goose on the 9th, American Barn Owl on the 10th, Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet on the 15th, Common Red-shafted Flicker on the 16th, Lesser Snow Goose, Blue Goose, and Eastern Great Horned Owl on the 17th, American Rough-legged Hawk on the 18th, Cooper Hawk on the 26th, and Cowbird (subsp.) on the 30th. April arrivals included the Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk on the 2nd, Baldpate on the 3rd, Canvas-back and Northern Ruddy Duck on the 5th, Brown Thrasher on the 7th, Northern American Coot, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellow-legs and Baird Sandpiper on the 10th, Sandhill Brown Crane on the 15th, Bronzed Grackle and Vesper Sparrow (subsp.) on the 16th, Tree Swallow and Rough-winged Swallow on the 17th, Mockingbird (subsp.) and Hermit Thrush (subsp.) on the 20th, Eastern Kingbird and Black and White Warbler on the 26th, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Maryland Yellow-throat (subsp.), Baltimore Oriole, Dickcissel, Clay-colored Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow on the 27th, American Eared Grebe, American Bittern, Western Willet, Upland Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson Phalarope, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Purple Martin and Bobolink on the 9th, Dusky Swift, Least Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Northern Rough-legged Hawk on the 10th, American Eared Grebe, Great Blue Heron (subsp.), Northern Little Blue Heron, Lesser Scaup, Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher (subsp.), Semipalmated Sandpiper, Franklin Gull, American Black Tern, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-breasted Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Bell Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-poll Warbler, Chat (subsp.), American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Eastern White-crowned Sparrow and Eastern Chipping Sparrow on the 11th, Western Blue Grosbeak on the 14th, and Black-billed Cuckoo on the 20th. An Eastern Least Tern was seen on June 13, and an Eastern Yellow-bellied
Sapsucker on June 26. The last Eastern Slate-colored Junco was seen about April 1, and the last Harris Sparrow about April 20.—Misses Agness and Susie Callaway, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richardson, Fairbury, Nebr.

Some 1937 Bird Notes from Near Holstein, Adams County.—Lesser Snow Geese were noted on March 11 (flock of about 35 with a couple of Canada Geese intermixed), 17 (flock of about 25), and 22 (several large flocks). American Pintails were noted on February 22 (flock of about 35) and March 2 (several flocks), while on March 24 they were numerous, along with other ducks. Only a few Cooper Hawks were seen in 1937. A nest of the Eastern Red-tailed Hawk containing two young birds was found on July 11. Red-tailed and Swainson Hawks were present in average numbers in the fall migration, the Red-tailed Hawk from about August 20 and the Swainson Hawk from about September 1 on to early October. American Rough-legged Hawks were noted on January 19, February 9 (2) and February 27 (several). An American Golden Eagle was noted on December 30, 1936. The Marsh Hawk was seen on January 1 and 4, and March 10 and 29, and again became common about August 1, but the bulk of the flight was between August 15 and September 15.

The species was about as numerous as in 1936. The Pigeon Hawk (subsp.), Prairie Falcon, and Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), were noted respectively on January 24, February 11, and March 10. Sparrow Hawks began migrating through southward about August 10, but the majority passed through between September 10 and 25. The first Prairie Falcon of the fall was noted on September 12. The first Upland Plover was noted on July 7, and occasionally throughout July and frequently in August up to about the 20th. The Northern Killdeer and Eastern Common Bluebird was first noted on March 16 and the first Robins were seen on March 23. An American Magpie was seen repeatedly at intervals between January 19 and March 15. A Common Rock Wren was noted in our yard on September 27, and remained about for a few days. A flock of about 150 Lapland Longspurs (subsp.) was seen on February 12.—Harold Turner, Bladen, Nebr.

Some 1937 Notes on Whooping Cranes and Other Birds.—In addition to the Whooping Cranes (Grua americana) noted by Judge Fitzsimmons of Elwood, near Lexington on March 23, 1937, and those seen in the Kearney vicinity on April 2, 3, and 10 (antea, v, pp. 35, 57-58, and 106), in talking with some of my fellow hunters on my annual duck hunt around the Garden County lakes north of Oshkosh, in November, I learned that two flocks, each of twenty-five or thirty of these birds, probably different individuals from any previously reported, had been seen by them last April. This would place at about 159 the probable total of unduplicated individual Whooping Cranes seen in Nebraska by different observers during the spring of 1937.

On the Garden County lakes in November, in addition to many geese (although we were a little early for the main goose flight) and many Common Mallards, I saw two small flocks of Greater Yellow-legs. Greater Prairie Chickens and Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse seemed quite plentiful, but not as much so as in the same locality a year ago (antea, v, p. 10).—Cyrus A. Black, Kearney, Nebr.

Some Nebraska Bird Notes for the Summer of 1937.—I spent the period from June 6 to 9, inclusive, in the vicinity of Hastings, Adams County, and listed sixty-seven species of birds. About 100 Franklin Gulls were seen, apparently all without the nearly solidly black heads characteristic of the spring migrants. Among the species that may be listed as abundant were the Western Mourning Dove, Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds, Northern Blue Jay, Western House Wren, Eastern Yellow Warbler, English House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. Species commonly seen included the American Black-
crowned Night Heron, American Pintail, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Northern Killdeer, Baird and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Forster and American Black Terns, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Western Burrowing Owl, Sennett (?), Nighthawk, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed, Eastern Hairy, and Northern Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Rough-winged, Barn, and Eastern Cliff Swallows, Eastern Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), Mockingbird (subsp.), Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike (subsp.), European Starling, Northern Bell, Red-eyed, and Eastern Warbling Vireos, Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, Bobolink, Thick-billed Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird (subsp.), Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Eastern Cardinal, Dickcissel, Eastern American Goldfinch, and Western Grasshopper and Western Lark Sparrows. Single individuals of the American Bittern, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), Alder Traill Flycatcher (collected at Wood River, Hall County, June 7), Long-tailed Chat, and Lark Bunting (male) were seen.

One pair each of the Baldpate and Blue-winged Teal were noted. Two Eastern Phoebes and three Rocky Mountain Say Phoebes were seen.

The period from June 10 to 13, inclusive, was spent in Boyd County, working along Ponca Creek, around Butte and Spencer, and environs. Forty-five species were listed. As at Hastings, the Western Mourning Dove, Eastern and Arkansas Kingbirds, English House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles were abundant, as was also the Bronzed Grackle. Species commonly seen were the Marsh Hawk, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sennett Nighthawk, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Eastern Hairy and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Saskatchewan Horned Lark, Rough-winged, Barn, and Eastern Cliff Swallows, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike (subsp.), Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Northern Maryland Yellow-throat, Thick-billed Red-winged Blackbird, Cowbird (subsp.), Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, and Western Grasshopper and Western Lark Sparrows. Individuals of the Swains Hawk, Western Great Horned Owl, Scarlet Tanager (male), and Arctic Spotted Towhee (male), were seen, as was also a pair of the Eastern Phoebe.

Two Upland Plovers were seen flying across the road in the wet meadow country between O'Neill, Holt County, and Bartlett, Wheeler County, on June 10, and one was seen standing on a fence post just south of Columbus, Platte County, on June 13. Also on June 13, two Eastern Least Terns were seen flying over the Platte River near Columbus, and the Western Burrowing Owl was noted standing on one foot on a fence post beside the road near David City, Butler County. At the Oak Creek pond near Lincoln on July 4 a Common Pied-billed Grebe, five American Black Terns, two Lesser Yellow-legs, and a male Wilson Phalarope, presumably non-breeding birds, were seen. The Eastern Least Bittern was noted around the fish ponds at the State Fish Hatchery near Gretna on July 20 and 28, and on the former date a very flimsy nest of the Dickcissel, with large holes in the sides, was found about two feet up on the weeds on the bank of an irrigation ditch near Linoma Beach. A nest of the Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo located about twelve feet up in a boxelder tree in Lincoln, containing four fresh eggs, blew down in a storm on July 30. A migrant Northern American Coot and three Solitary Sandpipers (subsp.) were seen at Sprague, Lancaster County, on August 3. On August 24, twelve freshly killed Eastern Kingbirds were
picked up along Highway 20, five miles west of O'Neill, Holt County, within a distance of 100 yards, one being an adult and eleven immature birds, all apparently killed by autos. The road here ran along a small grove of boxelders with a high power line at the side. On September 27, at Lincoln, a male Wilson Pileolated Warbler was seen on the University campus. On October 8, a Prairie Falcon was seen on a telephone pole near Halsey, Thomas County, and a flock of twenty-five Little Brown (?) Cranes was seen flying over at Ravenna, Buffalo County.

I spent August 15 and 16, and October 8 to 10, 1937, at Beaver Lake, Cherry County, Nebraska, and among the more interesting birds observed there on those dates, the following may be mentioned. On the August dates, a flock of seventeen Southern Long-billed Curlews, and one additional lone bird were seen, along with a flock of six Avocets and several other individuals of that species. Four Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen. The American Black Tern was abundant, most of the birds being molting adults and immatures. Near Burge, southwest of Valentine, on August 16, I saw two Northern Turkey Vultures and one Common Rock Wren. On October 10, a Pigeon Hawk (subsp.) was noted flying near the margin of Beaver Lake.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, Dept. Zoology and Anatomy, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, Nebr.

Mid-June Records for the Avocet and Lewis Woodpecker in Western Nebraska.—In a trip across Nebraska during the middle of June, 1937, at Broadwater, Morrill County, along the North Platte River, I saw two Avocets (Recurvirostra americana) on June 16, and in Sioux County north of Harrison on June 18 I saw a Lewis Woodpecker (Asyndesmus lewis), both of which species I have found to be uncommon in the state.—L. M. GATES, Lincoln, Nebr.

A Large Flock of White Pelicans Seen in Cass County.—The Omaha Nature Study Club held a field trip in Cass County on September 26, 1937, visiting the limestone quarries at Nehawka and Weeping Water, in which trip forty-two persons participated. During the stop for lunch at Springdale, the artistic home of Mr. John Larsch, the entire field party was thrilled by the flight overhead of a flock of about 100 White Pelicans.—L. O. HORSKY, Omaha, Nebr.

The Northern Black-throated Green Warbler in Logan County.—Our yard in Stapleton, Logan County, was alive with small birds on the morning of October 17, 1937. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Myrtle Warblers were flitting about, and the notes of the White-breasted Nuthatch could be heard in the distance. Some strange bird notes attracted my attention, and, focusing the field glasses on one bird, I was able to identify it as the Northern Black-throated Green Warbler (Dendroica virens virens). During the same forenoon I saw several others of this species, which is an addition to our local bird list, and was able further to verify my original identification.—MRS. EARL W. GLANDON, Stapleton, Nebr.

Some Grosbeak Observations from Scotts Bluff County.—The vicinity of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, seems to be an ideal location for grosbeaks. A great many Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks (Hesperiphona melanocephala papago) are reared in this locality each summer. The Western Blue Grosbeak (Guiraca caerulea interfusa) is not nearly as common, but one was seen in the canyon west of town in August of 1937. On October 24, 1937, we saw four pairs of Pine Grosbeaks (Pinicola enucleator ? montana) in a canyon south of Gering, this being our first observation of the species in this vicinity. There was a spring in this canyon, and the grosbeaks flew down and drank from it at a distance of only a few feet from us, quite unafraid and keeping up a constant chatter. On November 4, 1936, an Evening Grosbeak (Hesperiphona vespertina ? brooksi) was watched for the entire day, as it fed on dogwood berries and weed seeds in our back yard.—Mr. and Mrs. ROY J. WIRSCHY, Scottsbluff, Nebr.
Some Bird Observations Made in 1937 at Red Cloud, Webster County.—Supplementary or in addition to the previously published dates of spring arrival at Red Cloud (antea, v, pp. 59-66), it may be mentioned that Harold Ludlow saw several Lark Buntings on May 8 and a flock of twenty-one of them on May 20. The first Eastern Green Herons were noted on May 21 and 22, and later on June 24 and July 31. I saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on May 21, and an American Bittern on May 24. Also on May 24 the first Bob-white (subsp.) of the year was noted. Two Bob-whites were later heard whistling in the orchard, on June 10, and one was there again on July 12. A pair of Diskcissels had started nesting on May 12, and by June 1 these birds were numerous in an alfalfa field. The Eastern Robins and Bronzed Grackles both had young in their nests on May 30, by which date numerous other kinds of birds were nesting.

A Great Horned Owl, fully grown but evidently a bird of the year, was noted in the orchard on June 3, 4, 8 and 9, and was quite unafraid. Either the same or another individual of the species was observed on August 3. Barn Swallows were nesting in a shed on June 5. Young Bronzed Grackles were numerous by June 19. Three young Catbirds and a young Western Mourning Dove were seen on June 24, and other young doves were noted on June 27 (two), July 4 (three), and 17 (three). Eastern Belted Kingfishers were seen along the creek on June 24. Three young Baltimore Orioles were seen on June 26, and three others on July 11. Young Eastern Robins of the second brood were in evidence on June 30. Two young Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen on July 2. Young Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen on July 3 and 4. On July 7, three young Eastern Kingbirds were seen, and on July 26 a nest of the same species with three young in it was found. Closely paralleling the preceding, on July 26 five young Arkansas Kingbirds were seen, and on July 26 a nest with four young of this species was found. Two young Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted on July 12, on which day I saw also a Swainson Hawk, my first midsummer date for this species. A nest containing four young Brown Thrashers was found on July 13, and one young bird still remained in the nest on July 24. A young Eastern Crow was observed on July 14 and another on July 21. Crows do not seem to have increased locally to the usual extent, in 1937.

During the latter part of July, the young birds gorged themselves on the abundance of grasshoppers. On July 25, I noticed flocks of young Red-winged Blackbirds (subsp.) and Bronzed Grackles feeding on the grasshoppers in our fields, and I think noticeably reducing their numbers. Young Red-winged Blackbirds became increasingly common from August 16 to 23. On August 18 I saw thousands of blackbirds of both of these species feeding on the Milo Sorgo and other seed sorghums and doing great damage, sometimes cleaning all the seed from a ten-acre field in a few days. Bronzed Grackles began to appear in large flocks by August 25, and by August 28 enormous assemblages of these birds were present. A flock noted on the morning of that day was two miles long, thirty to forty feet wide, with the birds fairly close (estimated about three birds to the foot). This flock destroyed a six-acre patch of Kafir in six to eight days. Grackles were numerous to September 11, less so September 14 to 18, and relatively few by September 23 to October 3; but by October 10 they were again numerous, and the following day were present by the hundreds. Flocks of thousands of migrant Eastern Crows had arrived and gathered south of the Republican River by October 12, and were still present in the woods along the river on November 14.

By August 1, both young and old Baltimore Orioles were consorting in family groups. The first flock of Blue-winged Teals was seen on the river on August 3, and by October 10 they were numerous on the ponds and lakes. I noted a young Rose-breasted Grosbeak on August 17. Small
troops of American Goldfinches (subsp.) were seen August 24 and 31, and September 1 to 5, and again on October 15 to 17 and November 10 (four). A flock of nine migrating Franklin Gulls was seen on September 6. Saskatchewan Horned Larks were flocking by September 8 to 13, and flocks believed to be of this form were noted on October 11 and 27. An Eastern Cardinal was seen on October 3. A flock of about forty-two Brown Cranes (subsp.) was seen on October 6. During the night of October 6, several large flocks of geese passed over. Arctic Spotted Towhees were noted in migration on October 7 (one), November 11 (one), and 14 (flock). Ducks that were numerous on the ponds and lakes by October 10 were the Common Mallard, American Pintail, and Shoveller, and on the same date some ducks taken to be Black Ducks (subsp.) were seen. Geese and ducks were seen October 27, and subsequent to the cold weather of November 14 up to November 20, large flocks of ducks and geese were observed.

The following are the last dates on which thirty-four summer residents were recorded in the fall of 1937, together with several dates immediately preceding the final one:

Mockingbird (subsp.). Aug. 11, three along the Republican River.
Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Aug. 15. (Aug. 4-7, 10).
Upland Plover. Sept. 4, three. (Aug. 4, 5).
Yellow Warbler (subsp.). Sept. 5. (Sept. 4).
Arctic Kingbird. Sept. 7. (Sept. 4, 5). Local birds gone Aug. 20.
Eastern Warbling Vireo. Sept. 10. (Sept. 4-7).
Baltimore Oriole. Sept. 11. (Sept. 1-10).
Rough-winged Swallow. Sept. 11. (Sept. 6-10).
Barn Swallow. Sept. 15. (Sept. 5-7, 14).
Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker. Sept. 27, six.
Bronzed Grackle. Nov. 14, flock in woods along river.

The following are the first and subsequent dates on which thirteen fall and winter visitors were observed in the fall of 1937:
Prairie Falcon. Aug. 20, one. (Sept. 11, 21, Oct. 24, Dec. 27. On latter date the falcon was chasing a pigeon, which escaped by flying into the barn).


Song Sparrow (subsp.). Nov. 2.

Harlan Hawk. Nov. 3, one. (Nov. 10, 25, 26, Dec. 12, one bird on each date).

Tree Sparrow (subsp.). Nov. 5, flock. (Nov. 6, 20).

Eastern Purple Finch (?). Nov. 13, eight. (Nov. 17, flock, 18-20, eighteen, 23, 27, Dec. 6, 27, flocks).


Shufeldt Oregon Junco. Nov. 27. (Nov. 28-30).


The Red Crossbill in Webster County in the Fall of 1937 and Winter of 1937-38.—Since I noted the three Red Crossbills (Loxia curvirostra f. bentii) here on August 5 to 11, 1937, and heard one on August 18 (antea, v, pp. 110-111), I have seen or heard more of these birds every once in a while. On November 4, 1937, I saw a flock of twelve flying over. Three were seen on November 14. I think they are attracted to the linden tree by the tiny nuts upon it. They stayed with us all of the winter of 1937-38, up to February 12, 1938.—Mrs. George W. Trine, Red Cloud, Nebr.

The Snowy Owl in Lincoln County.—Two Snowy Owls (Nyctea noyctea) were taken in the North Platte vicinity during December, 1937. Both specimens are being mounted.—Wilson Tout, North Platte, Nebr.

Some Bird Notes from Hastings, Adams County.—There seems to have been a considerable flight of the Western Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus occidentalis) into this region during the fall and early winter of 1937, and since September up to date (December 10, 1937), ten specimens have come to the Hastings Museum and been preserved. Also we have received two specimens of the American Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos canadensis) and one of the Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus subsp.). Pinion Jays are reported present this fall in the vicinity of Kanesaw, in the northwestern part of the county. A specimen of the Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos subsp.) was taken here at Hastings by Mr. Donald Karr on the unusually late date of December 5, 1937.—A. M. Brooking, Hastings Municipal Museum, Hastings, Nebr.

Western Meadowlarks Lingering Unusually Late in Logan County.—Hundreds of Western Meadowlarks (Sturnella neglecta) were observed to be present in Logan County in 1937 as late as December 16, although much cold weather, with temperatures as low as nine degrees below zero, had been experienced. While a few of these birds remain in this locality almost every winter, it is unusual that so many should have remained so late this season.—Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Glandon, Stapleton, Nebr.

The Eastern Meadowlark in Western Nebraska.—The Crescent Lake Refuge in Garden County is about fifteen miles west of the northwardly projected Nebraska-Colorado boundary line, and is about eighty miles east of the eastern boundary line of the state of Wyoming. It was in this area that in 1936 we found the Eastern Meadowlark (Sturnella magna magna) to be a not uncommon bird. The Eastern Meadowlark was also found in small numbers in various parts of the Loup River drainage area in the central part of the state.—Wm. Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa.
A Flock of Robins Wintering Near Archer, Merrick County.—In December, 1937, a flock of twenty-eight Robins (*Turdus migratorius* subsp.) appeared in the grove on the farm of Mr. F. A. Marsh, near Archer, and after remaining there for a time disappeared. Mr. Marsh’s grove is a mixed growth of cottonwoods and red cedars, with some elms and other trees. On January 9, 1938, I encountered a flock of Robins in a grove of similar tree composition located a few miles from Mr. Marsh’s place. I counted twenty-six of the birds, and there were a few flying about over the ground that I did not get to count accurately, but estimate there were altogether about thirty birds in the group. This is the first time that I have encountered Robins wintering in flocks in Merrick County.—DEAN E. ECKHOFF, Lincoln, Nebr.

The 1937 Fall Migration at Hastings, Adams County.—The following represent the principal bird observations made by members of the Brookings Bird Club during the fall of 1937. Warblers were scarce. A migrant Wood Thrush and two Eastern Nashville Warblers were noted by Mrs. A. H. Jones on September 21. Mrs. F. L. Youngblood saw three Black and White Warblers on September 23. The first Eastern Brown Creeper of the season was seen by Mrs. A. E. Olsen on September 28. Mrs. A. M. Jones saw Cedar Waxwings on October 3. A field trip along the Little Blue River on October 8 by Mesdames A. M. Brooking, A. H. and A. M. Jones, and A. E. Olsen yielded twenty-eight species, as follows: Great Blue Heron (subsp.), Shoveller, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Northern Killdeer, Lesser Yellow-legs, Western Mourning Dove, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Northern Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Mockingbird (subsp.), Eastern Robin, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.), Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird (subsp.), Eastern Cardinal, Arctic Spotted Towhee, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow (subsp.), Harris Sparrow, Eastern White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Common Lincoln Sparrow. Also on October 8, Mrs. Youngblood saw a Mourning Warbler, and on the following day a Maryland Yellow-throat (subsp.). The last Baltimore Oriole of the season, a female, was seen on October 10. On October 16, Mrs. A. M. Brooking and Miss M. Cary Sylla saw the Eastern Myrtle Warbler and Black-poll Warbler, and Mesdames J. D. Fuller and A. M. Jones, and Miss Martha Cousley saw a Black-throated Green Warbler. Mrs. Youngblood noted the Least Flycatcher on October 17. Northern Blue Jays were seen on October 17 by Mrs. Youngblood and on October 24 by Mrs. A. H. Jones, while a pair remained to winter in the Hastings vicinity. Eastern Robins were still numerous on October 20, and one was seen by Mrs. A. H. Jones as late as November 2.

Northern Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches (subsp.) were noted by Mrs. A. M. Jones on October 24, while Mrs. Youngblood saw a Red-headed Woodpecker on that date. The Shufeldt Oregon Junco was noted by Mrs. A. H. Jones on October 25, Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones saw an Eastern Purple Finch on November 2, and the latter a Red-breasted Nuthatch on November 25. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rantz saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker and Eastern Common Bluebirds on November 7, and Mesdames Brooking, Fuller, and A. M. Jones saw twenty-four of the latter species on November 9. Mrs. A. M. Jones saw Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets on November 11 and 12, and Mrs. Dorr Mahoney saw a large flock of Western Meadowlarks on November 25. Mrs. Brooking saw Cowbirds (subsp.) on November 26, and Mr. Brooking recorded a Migrant Loggerhead Shrike for December 19. A field trip along the Little Blue River and in the Hastings city parks made on December 28 by fifteen members of the Brookings Bird Club again enabled the listing of twenty-eight species, as follows: Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), Wilson Snipe, Greater Prairie Chicken, Eastern Belted Kingfisher,

MRS. A. H. JONES, Hastings, Nebr.

The Steller Jay and Other Birds in Scotts Bluff County.—The early winter of 1937-38 has not been mild in Scotts Bluff County, but we have not had the woodpecker visitors in our back yard at Scottsbluff that the cold weather usually brings. A bird quite new to our experience in this locality put in an appearance during Christmas week of 1937. It is a Steller Jay (Cyanocitta stelleri subsp.). It stayed closely in one small section of the town, and was quite friendly. During this same week a covey of about twenty Bob-whites (subsp.) was seen. Also, a Christmas bird census was made between 10:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on December 26, 1937, in Scotts Bluff County along the road from Scottsbluff to Lyman and to Helvas Canyon south of Gering, about twelve miles by auto and three on foot. The day was clear with a moderate south wind, and the temperature ranged from 28° to 46° F., with about two inches of snow on the ground. Fourteen species, including about 278 individuals, were listed, as follows: Common Mallard, 90; Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), 2; Marsh Hawk, 4; Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), 3; Ring-necked Common Pheasant, 5; Common Red-shafted Flicker, 2; Downy Woodpecker (subsp.), 1; Horned Lark (subsp.), 80; Northern Blue Jay, 3; American Magpie, 50; White-rumped Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.), 10; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 20; and Tree Sparrow (subsp.), 6.

On May 23, 1937, we saw a Western Great Horned Owl in the vicinity of Signal Butte, in the southwestern part of the county.—MR. and MRS. ROY J. WITSCHY, Scottsbluff, Nebr.

A Dodge County Christmas Bird Census.—I made my Christmas bird census between 8:00 A. M. and 2:30 P. M. on December 26, 1937, in Wild Court Park, MacLean's Island, Big Island, and the cemetery, in the vicinity of Fremont, Dodge County. The day was clear, with no wind, the ground was bare of snow, and the temperature ranged from 45° F. to 55° F. Twenty-four species, including 1,118 individuals, were listed, as follows: Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk (subsp.), 1; Nebraska Screech Owl, 2; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 10; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 11; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 8; Horned Lark (subsp.), 3; Eastern Crow, 275; Northern Blue Jay, 5; Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), 42; Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Eastern Brown Creeper, 12; Eastern Robin, 150; Eastern Common Bluebird, 5; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Cedar Waxwing, 125; Western Meadowlark, 75; Bronzed Grackle, 2; Eastern Cardinal, 20 (12cl', 81'); Northern Pine Thrasher. Oct. 6. (Sept. 1-3, 11-13, 17-25, Oct. 1-5).

Siskin, 4; American Goldfinch (subsp.), 25; Red-eyed Eastern Towhee, 1; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 250; and Tree Sparrow (subsp.), 75.—MRS. LILY RUEGG BUTTON, Fremont, Nebr.

A Lincoln County Christmas Bird Census.—A Christmas bird census was made by six members of the North Platte Bird Club between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on December 26, 1937, within an area of fifteen miles diameter near North Platte, Lincoln County. The day was clear with a light south wind, and the temperature ranged from 20° F. at the start to 35° F. at the return. The census was made by auto with side trips on foot, the observers working in pairs or singly. Thirty-three species, including 1,107 individuals, were listed, as follows: American
Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Common Mallard, 46; Blue-winged Teal, 15; Northern Shoveler, 2; American Buff-breasted Merganser, 21; Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk, 5; Marsh Hawk, 8; Desert (?) Sparrow Hawk, 2; Eastern (?) Bob-white, 18; American Barn Owl, 1; Nebraska Screech Owl, 1; Western (?) Great Horned Owl, 5; Northern Short-eared Owl, 2; Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, 4; Common Red-shafted Flicker, 4; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 4; Horned Lark (subsp.), 61; American Magpie, 194; Eastern Crow, 297; Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Eastern Robin, 3; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Northern Shrike (subsp.), 1; European Starling, 2; Western Meadowlark, 15; Red-winged Blackbird (subsp.), 36; Eastern Cardinal, 1; American Goldfinch (subsp.), 1; Eastern Slate-colored Junco, 50; Shufeldt Oregon Junco, 26; Pink-sided Junco, 55; and Tree Sparrow (subsp.), 223.—Mr. and Mrs. WILson TOUT, Mr. HARRY WEAKLY, Mr. and Mrs. CARL HOLLMAN, and Mrs. CARL COLLISTER, North Platte, Neb.

The Whistling Swan in Logan County in January.—On January 1, 1938, while Mr. E. W. Glandon and his son, Mr. Myron Lambert, and I, all of Stapleton, were making a bird census in the southern half of the county in a large marshy area along the South Loup River just north of Hoagland, we flushed a swan from among a flock of at least 600 Common Mallards. The swan circled around over the marshy tract, and we observed it in flight through our field glasses. When it alighted at a point about a quarter of a mile from us, in order to make our identification positive I carefully stalked it, and succeeded in approaching to within thirty feet of it. It was an adult in the completely pure white plumage, and the bill and feet were wholly black. While the Whistling Swan (Cygnus columbianus) usually has a yellow spot in front of the eye, that marking sometimes is wanting in that species, and the size of the bird indicated the Whistling Swan rather than the Trumpeter Swan. The Whistling Swan is an addition to the Logan County bird list.—GLENN VIEHMEYER, Stapleton, Nebr.

A Concentration of Wintering Eagles Along the North Platte River in Keith County.—On January 25, 1938, while traveling on the Union Pacific Railroad along the North Platte River from North Platte to Scottsbluff, in a grove of trees located close to the railroad track just west of Sarben, Keith County, I counted twenty-two eagles. At least sixteen of these were adult Bald Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus, subsp. alascanus), and the other five or six were either that species in the immature plumage or American Golden Eagles, as it is impossible to distinguish between them from the train. Earlier in the month I had driven by auto through the same region, and at that time I saw several eagles of both species, including Bald Eagles in both the adult and immature plumages.—HARRY E. WEAKLY, Experiment Substation, North Platte, Nebr.

Some 1937-38 Bird Observations at Red Cloud, Webster County.—No doubt due to the unfavorable conditions in the summer of 1936, and the subsequent lack of winter food, there were very few birds to be seen in this locality throughout the winter of 1936-37. Birds were also pitifully few here during the winter of 1937-38. At our feeding station, the only regular visitors were a few Northern Downy and Eastern Hairy Woodpeckers, some Black-capped Chickadees, an occasional Eastern Brown Creeper, and a pair of Eastern Cardinals, while in 1936-37 (but not in 1937-38) Eastern Slate-colored Juncos were also continuously with us. What was most unusual, in 1937 Eastern Crows came right into town for food, and I saw them daily at my neighbor’s back porches and close around the houses. It seems to me when crows are that badly starved the birds must be in very bad straits. During March of 1937 the Cardinals awakened us every morning, and in mid-March for the first time I heard the female Cardinal sing—not so musical as the male, but defi-
nately a song—while the Juncos sang their sweet songs from morning until night. The Cardinals built a nest on our premises that year, but unfortunately it was destroyed while I was attending the N. O. U. meeting on May 21 and 22. A second nesting resulted in their bringing up their two young successfully, and the four birds are most interesting and welcome in our yard. Bronzed Grackles destroyed the nest of our Brown Thrasher that was located near our house at 4:00 A. M., just two days before the eggs were due to hatch, in spite of all my vigilance. I have not seen a young Brown Thrasher for several years. Our first Northern Purple Martin arrived in 1937 on April 12. Later we had altogether four young male martins visiting our house for weeks, and one even carried in some nesting material, but no mates appeared for them, and they were still with us at the end of July, coming to the house nearly every day. On June 14, 1937, I watched a Chat all day long—a very late date for this locality. We had in our yard in the summer of 1937 seven or eight families of Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeaks, numerous Eastern Robins, Baltimore Orioles, Warbling Vireos, Catbirds and Kingbirds, and one family of Eastern Yellow Warblers, but no young grackles have been allowed to hatch on this place. In the winter of 1937-38 I had frequent “repeats” among the Chickadees, which apparently were all banded. The first ducks, Common Mallards and American Pintails, were present in considerable numbers at Pawnee Lake on January 25, 1938.—MRS. GEORGE W. TRINE, Red Cloud, Nebr.

Unusual Scarcity of Winter Birds at Plattsmouth, Cass County.—Birds have been very scarce here so far this winter (1937-38). For the first time since I began winter feeding, at least ten years ago, I have seen no Tufted Titmice or Eastern Brown Creepers. There are a few Black-capped Chickadees, Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches and Cardinals, but they come only occasionally. Only the woodpeckers—the Eastern Hairy, Northern Downy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and the Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker—seem to be present in the usual numbers. A pair of Northern Blue Jays appears at intervals. All of the bird lovers in this community have noticed the scarcity of birds this winter.—MRS. PAUL T. HEINEMAN, Plattsmouth, Nebr.

Some Bird Observations of the 1937-38 Winter Season Made at Omaha, Douglas County.—The last Chimney Swift and Rough-winged Swallow were seen, respectively, on October 1 and 3 by Miss Mary Ellsworth, on which latter date she noted also the Common Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Teal and Northern American Coot. The first Harris Sparrow was noted by L. O. Horsky on October 5. Miss Ellsworth noted the first Savannah Sparrow (subsp.) and Vesper Sparrow (subsp.) on October 13, and the last Blue-winged Teal on October 18, on which latter date Mr. Horsky noted the first Northern Pine Siskin and Eastern Slate-colored Junco. On October 24, Miss Ellsworth noted the first migrant Common Mallard, Baldpate, and Lesser Scaup. On October 31, she noted the first American Pintail and the last Northern American Coot, and Mr. Horsky observed the first Eastern Brown Creeper.

The last Baldpate, Lesser Scaup, and Eastern Belted Kingfisher of the season were noted by Miss Ellsworth on November 1, on which date she saw a Wilson Snipe. November 9 was the date of last observation by Miss Ellsworth of the Common Pied-billed Grebe, American Pintail, Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Western Meadowlark, and Red-winged Blackbird, and on this date she saw also a Song Sparrow (subsp.). Mr. William Marsh saw Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets in Elmwood Park on November 7 and 14, and on the latter date Miss Ellsworth noted the last Bronzed Grackle. Mr. Marsh saw a Screech Owl (subsp.), in the red phase, on his home grounds at 4157 Davenport on November 17, and in Elmwood Park on November 21, on which latter date he noted the last Harris Sparrow of the fall. Mr. Marsh saw the
Red-breasted Nuthatch in Elmwood Park on December 12, and Mesdames A. L. Patrick and George Woodward noted this bird in Fontenelle Forest on February 8. Mr. Marsh noted the Red Crossbill (subsp.) also in Elmwood Park on December 12, and Misses Bertha Calvert and Mary Ellsworth saw a flock of twenty-five of them in Forest Lawn Cemetery on December 27, during the Christmas census, ten American Buff-breasted Mergansers and three Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted in Fontenelle Forest, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Red Crossbills (subsp.), and one Eastern Purple Finch in Elmwood Park, and Northern Pine Siskins in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Sparrow Hawks (subsp.) were repeatedly noted in Omaha during the winter; by Mr. Horsky at 60th and Franklin, by Mr. Frank Jodeit at 69th and Grover, by Miss Mary Towne at 1502 North 54th, and by Miss Ellsworth at Fontenelle Boulevard and Ames. Mr. Miles Greenleaf had Northern Blue Jay visitors at his home at 4806 Douglas, and Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted at different times at Fontenelle Reserve by Mr. Horsky, Miss Ellsworth, and Mesdames Patrick and Woodward. Mr. Greenleaf saw a Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), a large flock of Horned Larks (subsp.) and numerous Tree Sparrows in the Pappio Bottoms on February 3. Mesdames Patrick and Woodward noted a large flock of Eastern Robins and three Eastern Common Bluebirds in the Fontenelle Reserve on February 8, while on February 9 Mr. Greenleaf noted an Eastern Robin in his own yard. The Northern Killdeer, Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), American Herring Gull and Eastern Common Bluebird were all noted on March 11, while on March 13 many flocks of Canada Geese (subsp.) to a total of at least 1,500 birds were seen flying north up the Missouri River, and several flocks of Redwinged Blackbirds (subsp.) were noted.—OMAHA NATURE STUDY CLUB, BY L. O. HORSKY, Omaha, Nebr.

Some 1937-38 Bird Notes from Lincoln, Lancaster County.—In our back yard in 1937 the last Catbird was seen on September 16, the last Eastern Robin on September 18, the last Rose-breasted Grosbeak on September 19, the last Western Mourning Dove on September 23, and the last Western House Wren and Brown Thrasher on September 24, on which last-mentioned date the first Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen. The Tree Sparrow (subsp.) arrived October 6, the Eastern Brown Creeper October 7, the Harris Sparrow (in a neighbor’s yard) on October 11, and the Eastern Slate-colored Junco on October 25. Great numbers of Franklin Gulls were reported by Mr. Charles E. Booth to be feeding on grasshoppers in a wheat field near the Veterans’ Hospital on October 12.

Northern Pine Siskins were seen in our yard on February 4 and 16 and March 7, 14 (with American Goldfinches) and 22, 1938. Dean W. W. Burr reported seeing two Eastern Robins on the College of Agriculture campus on February 7, after which none were seen until February 27 and 28 and March 1, when Prof. Raymond Roberts saw them. Males were common by March 6 and females were common by March 14. A highly marked female Shufeldt Oregon Junco was seen on February 16, and Mrs. Dwight Thomas reported a flock of twelve Cedar Waxwings on the Wesleyan University campus on February 17. The Northern Killdeer was noted March 8 by Prof. Roberts, and on March 10 by us. Other arrivals were the Sparrow Hawk (subsp.) on March 14 (on which date the last Eastern Brown Creeper was seen), Cedar Waxwings on March 17 (Mrs. C. O. Bruce), and in our yard the Bronzed Grackle on March 20, the Dakota Song Sparrow on March 21, the Red-eyed Eastern Towhee on March 23 and the Western Mourning Dove on April 1 (one) and 2 (two). Mrs. Bruce saw Red Crossbills (subsp.) in Wyuka Cemetery on March 23 and the Eastern Chipping Sparrow on March 31. The last typical Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees were noted in our yard on March 31. Prof. Roberts noted the first Northern Purple Martin male scouts on April 2.—MYRON H. and JANE B. SWENK, Lincoln, Nebr.
THE MOURNING DOVE CASE

Bird lovers were considerably surprised and chagrined when the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, shortly after the effective date of Legislative Bill No. 312 of the last (fifty-second) session of the Nebraska Legislature, which act restored the Mourning Dove to the classification of a “game” bird in this state, but permitted no open season on it “except when such was ordered by the Commission”, declared an open season on these birds, effective September 1, 1937, to extend to and including the following November 15, and permitting the birds to be shot over the entire state from 7:00 A. M. to sunset, with a bag and possession limit of ten birds.

The surprise was due to the belief that the Commission would realize in advance that majority public sentiment in Nebraska opposed shooting these proverbially gentle and familiar birds, common in every city yard and probably known to every member of every farm family in the state, and therefore regarded with affection by our citizenry in general, and would not exercise the power given it. Previous recent tests of Nebraska public sentiment on the matter of making a “game” bird of the Mourning Dove, and placing an open season upon it, had shown pretty conclusively the prevailing oppositional nature of that sentiment. The chagrin was because the season was opened as early as September 1, in spite of the fact that doves that raise a third brood continue their nesting activities through September, and the loss of the parents in such cases involves also the loss of the eggs or starvation of the young, and also because hunters so disposed could kill these unwary birds for seventy-six consecutive days, or until they had practically all migrated farther south, a season that seemed on its face unreasonably long, and in addition the daily bag and possession limits were equally or more generous than those accorded to such generally acknowledged “game” as ducks, pheasants and cottontail rabbits. For all of which this action of the Commission has been rather severely criticized, not only by bird lovers but by garden club members, farmers, many conservationists and others, both as individuals and as organized groups.

Of course, an open season on Mourning Doves is not a new thing in Nebraska, nor even a long open season or one involving the nesting season. At the turn of the century, when dove hunters were relatively few, Mourning Doves could be shot legally from the middle of April to the end of October, and there was no bag limit for residents of the state. In 1905 this unreasonably long open season was reduced to the month of July only, but that unfortunately came in the height of the nesting season. In 1907 the open season was extended from one month to ten weeks, but at the same time was set back to begin September 15 and end December 1. The season was closed entirely in 1909, but in 1911 a six weeks midsummer open season was re-established, running from July 15 to September 1, and continued on that basis for six years. In 1917 the season was closed on both the Mourning Dove and Upland Plover, and there was no legal shooting of doves in Nebraska for the following twelve years. Then, in 1929, when the Legislature was making very extensive revisions of the fish and game laws, a two weeks open season on doves, extending from September 1 to 15, was returned to the statutes of the state.

Public sentiment in Nebraska failed signally to endorse this act. During the open seasons in September of both 1929 and 1930, just as last fall, bird lovers were incensed by witnessing the legalized shooting of doves that had been reared in their yards and elsewhere around their homes. Especially was this true in the countryside immediately about the urban centers of the state. These people freely expressed their disapproval through all of the usual avenues of public protest. The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, at its thirty-first annual meeting on May 18, 1931, passed a resolution deploring the action of the 1929 Legislature in classifying the dove as a Nebraska “game” bird and opening the season upon
it for the first half of September, and petitioned that the forty-sixth session repeal that action. When that session convened, its members were the recipients of many opposing petitions and protests, from women’s clubs, school children, agricultural groups, and individual citizens. Two bills (House Rolls 27 and 69) were introduced to abolish the open season on doves. The true sentiment of the majority of Nebraska citizens was very obvious, and on February 4, 1931, House Roll 27 was responsively passed by the House by a vote of 85 to 6, and was quickly approved by the Senate and the Governor. The people and their representatives had spoken, and for another six years, or until the above mentioned act of the last Legislature took place, the Mourning Dove was protected throughout the year by the Nebraska law.

As a species, the Mourning Dove occurs in every state of the Union. Our esteemed exchange, *Outdoor Nebraska* (xii, No. 4, p. 11), the quarterly magazine of the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, lists twenty-eight states that permit the shooting of doves, either throughout the state or in parts of them, and declares that these cover "practically the entire dove range". But in this statement it is mistaken. Vermont, which prohibits dove shooting, is included in the list, but since Virginia, which has permitted dove shooting on a partial or state-wide basis for many years, is omitted in the list, one may assume an inadvertent substitution. It is both interesting and significant that all of the territory that permits dove shooting, excepting only the four states of Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, and Minnesota, lies either within or south or west of the line of states composed of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Idaho; in brief, the "solid South" and the far western states. Except for the four Mississippi Valley states above mentioned, the entire northeastern and north-central United States prohibits dove shooting, this including all of New England, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. Nebraska, with the third largest state avifauna in the Union, and one of the oldest active state ornithological organizations in the nation, decidedly does not feel that it belongs in the company of the dove-shooting states in matters pertaining to bird protection, but rather with the majority of other northern states where public sentiment does not support the practice of dove shooting.

From the first North American Wildlife Conference, held at Washington early in 1936, sprang the General Wildlife Federation, the objectives of which were permanently to unify into a concerted movement the collective influence of all the conservation-minded people of this continent, with the purpose of securing adequate recognition of the needs of our wild creatures, and the legislative and financial support to care for those needs. The ideal of that fine conservationist leader, Mr. J. N. Darling, was and is that this movement should include not only sportsmen’s organizations, but bird clubs, garden clubs, women’s clubs, teachers’ organizations, 4-H and other youth clubs, agricultural organizations, and conservation-minded people generally, acting as individuals. The Nebraska Wildlife Federation is intended to accomplish this for our own state. Much good work has been done, but uniform cooperation is being jeopardized by the inability of true bird lovers and others to follow some of the county wildlife councils in such matters as endorsing an open season on doves in Nebraska. It is the tendency on the part of individuals and groups of a certain type of sportsman impatiently to condemn the conservation viewpoints of non-shooters and persons primarily interested in our birds as living creatures as "maudlin sentimentalists" that may handicap the development of Mr. Darling’s fine ideal of a broad cooperation of conservationists for their common objectives. Let us hope this may prove not to be true, and also that our Nebraska Commission may see the wisdom of reversing its 1937 action and announcing at an early date a complete and permanent closing of the open season on doves in Nebraska.

Myron H. Swenk
The thirty-ninth annual meeting and thirty-sixth annual field day of the N. O. D. will be held at Superior, Nebraska, respectively on Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, 1938. The Garden Department of the Women's Club of Superior will be the hosts at this meeting. Corresponding Secretary Earl W. Glandon is arranging a very attractive program of papers and discussions for Friday, with the annual banquet that evening, followed later by a program open to the public. The field day will, as usual, be held on Saturday. This will be the second N. O. D. meeting to be held at Superior, where the very successful twenty-sixth annual meeting and twenty-third annual field day were held on May 8 and 9, 1925. Hotel headquarters will be at the Nebraskan, where registration and the banquet will be held. For details as to program, plans and hotel facilities, please refer to the letter of announcement of Secretary Glandon. Reserve these dates now, and definitely plan to attend this meeting.

Although the N. O. U. will not reach its fortieth birthday anniversary until on December 16, 1939, it will hold its fortieth annual meeting in May of next year. Since our first eight annual meetings were in the winter, the first annual field day was not held until May of 1903, and therefore these consistently run three less in number than the annual meetings. Our 1939 annual meeting should be the occasion of some unusual activities by our organization. Would it not be wise to appoint a special committee at Superior to assist the Secretary in planning for the 1939 meeting?

With the present issue of the Nebraska Bird Review, now established on a semi-annual basis, you will note several changes. Conspicuous among these is the stiff-papered sepia cover to our magazine, and outstanding on the front cover page is a new illustration of the Western Burrowing Owl, the N. O. U. "mascot bird," in characteristic pose. The pen and ink drawing for this splendid illustration was most generously donated to us by Dr. George Miksch Sutton, the well known ornithologist and distinguished author, who is equally well known as a painter of birds and probably has no living superior in that art. As Dr. Sutton has at different times expressed to your Editor, he retains a warm regard for Nebraska, having lived in the state and studied its birds during the early part of his ornithological career, and his providing us with a suitable new illustration for our cover is his concrete demonstration of that regard, which certainly is reciprocated by all of us. Thank you very much, Dr. Sutton.

The cover also designates the Nebraska Bird Review as "A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region" instead of "A Review of Nebraska Ornithology." Although it has been a constant provision in the Constitution of the N. O. U. for nearly a quarter of a century, and still remains in it, probably many of our members do not realize that the privileges of membership in our organization extend not only to residents of Nebraska, but also to residents of all of the states adjacent to Nebraska. At the fourteenth annual meeting of the N. O. U., which was held in Lincoln on May 15, 1914, the Constitution of the society was amended to include the residents of these "adjacent states" as eligible to N. O. U. membership. This was done because then none of the surrounding states had an active bird organization, and certain persons residing in them who were interested in birds desired membership in the N. O. U. Since that time, the bird students of Iowa have organized their own state society, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, but none of the other states adjacent to Nebraska seem to have done so. Perhaps we have been a little selfish all these years in not more generally welcoming the active bird students of Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Missouri, and Kansas into our organization, for our present membership list includes only one member in each of the three states first mentioned, and none in the two last-mentioned states. Quite probably others could affiliate with us, to the mutual benefit of the bird student in the neighboring state and our organization. Should we not put a committee at work to encourage this idea?
With the close of 1937, the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union completed the fifth volume of its official organ, the *Nebraska Bird Review*, which started as a quarterly journal with the January, 1933, number. These five volumes total 692 pages and contain eighteen illustrative halftones and maps. Aside from the usual organization minutes, membership rolls and personalia, and the editorial discussions, these pages are devoted to a diversity of ornithological material, involving data not to be found elsewhere. Of special interest to the ornithologists of Nebraska and adjacent states are the General Notes (about 100 pp.), covering a great variety of topics, and a migration record (about 160 pp.) for the entire state, with a complete tabular summary of the dates of first arrival of each species in several representative localities for each year. Bird students of the Missouri Valley will also be interested in the three published parts of the "Brief Synopsis of the Birds of Nebraska", which together cover the loons, grebes and totipalmate birds, and in the published first five parts of "A History of Nebraska Ornithology", which deal, respectively, with fossil Nebraska birds, aboriginal Nebraska men and bird life, early Spanish and French explorations, and the ornithological results of the Lewis and Clark and Pike Expeditions of 1804-06 and the 1811 Missouri River trips of Bradbury, Nuttall and Brackenridge and the returning Astorians in 1812-13.

Much of the material in these five volumes is of more than local interest, as for example the monographic treatment of the present status of the Whooping Crane (19 pp.), two papers on the measurements and weights of the three races of Canada Goose found in Nebraska (22 pp.), a synopsis of the known information about the Carolina Parrot in the Missouri Valley region (5 pp.), and for this region detailed studies of the distribution, migration and hybridism of the Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks (14 pp.), and of the distribution and migration of the races of Great Horned Owl (37 pp.), with shorter studies of the songs of the Pine Grosbeak and Western Meadowlark, the habits of the Bronzed Grackle and Purple Martin, trees and shrubs of value for bird food in the Nebraska sandhills, and other subjects. Each volume has an adequate separate index.

The publication policy of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union always has been that of a distribution of its surplus publications as widely as possible through their sale at a concession in price, rather than of holding any considerable supply in reserve. It is very interested in having complete files of the *Nebraska Bird Review* in the libraries of institutions and of individual bird students, particularly those located in the Middle West and especially in the Missouri Valley states. The edition of each number of the Review is but 250 to 300 copies, nearly 200 of which are mailed at once to members and subscribers. The remaining set on hand are now offered for sale to libraries and interested ornithologists at $5.00 postpaid for the five volumes, which is $1.76 less than the actual cost of these twenty numbers to the organization. Less than fifty sets are still available, and four numbers can be supplied only with complete sets. The five volumes when bound make a handy sized book.

Beginning with the year 1938, the *Nebraska Bird Review* will be issued semi-annually instead of quarterly. Proceedings will be abbreviated, the membership roll published less frequently, and personalia largely eliminated. The annual migration tables will be continued. More monographic articles will be published, and the General Notes will be expanded. It is hoped that the synopses of the birds of Nebraska and the history of Nebraska ornithology may be continued whenever space is available. These changes in policy it is hoped will make the Review of broader and more general interest. The subscription price will remain $1.00 a year. Orders for sets of the first five volumes and subscriptions to the 1938 volume should be addressed to Myron H. Swenk, Editor-Custodian, N. O. U., 1410 North 37th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.