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Whole No. 63



Nest of American Coot

—Fred W. Kent

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President's Page

WHERE are the Wild Pigeons? wrote L. H. Smith from Strathway, Ontario, to the editor of *Forest and Stream*. "Twenty or twenty-five years ago, they were in countless thousands over the Eastern states and Canada, where they are known no more . . . Is it possible that the beautiful Passenger Pigeon is becoming extinct? Let us hear from Michigan, Wisconsin, Arkansas, the Indian Territory and from anywhere this bird may still be staying."

The year was 1888; the date May 31. It might have been 1964, and the question contemporary: "Where are the pheasants in South Dakota which numbered millions in forties and fifties?"

In 1941 appeared a booklet with the enthusiastic title: "Fifty Million Pheasants." It was sponsored and published by the South Dakota Department of Game and Fish, Pierre. "In 1945," wrote Allen in *Our Wildlife Legacy*, "state biologists estimated the pre-hunting population (in South Dakota) at between 30 and 40 million" (1954:31). In 1946 Nelson reported to the Midwest Wildlife Conference, "The 1945 population was probably half that of 1944." Conservatively then, 60 million pheasants in 1944.

Now in 1964 the Department of Game and Fish estimates the population at about 5 million, Hunters and bird students can indeed paraphrase Mr. Smith's question: "Where have the pheasants gone?" They might add, "The Mallards and Pintails, not many years ago two of our most abundant prairie ducks—where have they gone?" Where indeed? Fifty or more million pheasants in 1941-45; 5 million in 1964. Has anyone compared the duck populations for these two periods?

All sorts of reasons have been offer-

ed for what seems a strange population crash, not one of which bears much scrutiny. One avenue of investigation apparently has been avoided, except in casual reference: the effects of pesticides. Why? Secretary of the Interior Udell said publicly at Miami in December, 1963: "The unnerving fact is that pesticide residues have been found in virtually every type of warm-blooded animal across our land . . . Research has told us that incredibly small quantities of some chemicals can destroy shrimp grounds or reduce the reproductive capacity of oysters."

Evidence in the pesticide-bird relationship is piling up, both in the U. S. and in Europe, particularly in discoveries of significant amounts of pesticide residues in eggs and flesh of birds. Even the carefully worded conclusion of the Progress Report for 1963 of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has an ominous undertone: "Certainly, we have no evidence that the levels (of DDT) we find in eggs and birds are innocuous."

Since pesticide residues are involved in the reduction of "reproductive capacity" of some animals, why have not the proper authorities investigated this aspect of the pheasant reduction in South Dakota? Flesh and eggs of pheasants are surely not hard to procure for analysis for residues of chlorinated hydrocarbons, if such exist. Why hasn't this been done? Or if it has, why haven't the results been made available? Or is it possible that powerful commercial interests would rather have the truth above the disappearances of our wildlife left under the rug? Not only hunters, ornithologists and wildlife students but the public at large has a right to know.—Herbert Krause.

Shore Birds in 1959

Alfred Peterson

- (1) **Ringed Plover.** April 27, 1; 5|10, 1; 5|13, 12 Rush Lake; 5|19, 1.
- (2) **Piping Plover.** April 17, 1 near Lake Cochrane.
- (3) **Killdeer.** March 27, 1; 3|28, 4; 4|2, dozen; 4|7, several; 10|9, few. A common summer resident, well known.
- (4) **Golden Plover.** May 1, 34 at Clear Lake; 5|4, about 30 near Fox Lake; 5|5, 12 east of Kranzburg, 20 at Lake Enemy Swim; also 12 and 15 seen; 5|13, 30 just east of Watertown. 5|13, during last 4 or 5 days small lots up to 30 have been reported to me from east of Brandt. 5|14, a flock of some 60 two miles west of Brandt and 8 near town; 5|17, 28 5 miles east of Poinsett and 1 on outlet of Poinsett; 5|25, 1; 9|17, 3 on Lake Marsh; 10|12, W. A. Rose, 8 or 10 on the Hidewood.
- (5) **Black-bellied Plover.** Oct. 14, 2 at Oakwood Lakes; 11|2, 1 Lake Mary.
- (6) **Ruddy Turnstone.** May 19, 49 on Rush Lake; 5|26, 60 counted and then 10 more at Waubay.
- (7) **Common Snipe.** April 17, 1 near Lake Cochrane; 4|18, 4 Lake Oliver; 4|19, 4; 4|23, 11; 4|24, 1; 4|27, 4; 4|29, 2; 5|1, 1; 5|3, 2; 5|5, 4; 5|7, 1; 10|14, 1 at Oakwood Lakes.
- (8) **Upland Plover.** May 4, 2; 5|5, 2 Waubay Lake; 5|7, 1 heard, 1 seen, then 3 near Altamont; 5|8, 4 at Summit and 1 near Ortlely; 5|10, 2 pairs seen; 5|19, 1; 5|22, north of Clear Lake; 5|23, 1; 6|1 2; 7|24, 1 dead on highway; 8|2, 3 near Brandt; 8|22, 2.
- (9) **Spotted Sandpiper.** 5|6 and 5|8, 1; 5|10, 2 north of Goodwin; 5|19, 1 Rush Lake; 5|22, 2; 5|26, 1; 7|21, 1.
- (10) **Solitary Sandpiper.** May 10, 2 north of Clear Lake; 7|17, 2 north of Goodwin; 7|21, 1; 7|24, 1; 8|19 and 8|26, 1; 9|9, 3 at Lake Poinsett.
- (11) **Willet.** April 27, 4 Lake Oliver; 4|29, 3 at Clear Lake and 2 at Hayti; 5|5, 1 Waubay, 2 Rush Lake, 3 Waubay Lake and 2 Cottonwood slough; 5|8, 10 Rush Lake; 5|13, 1 near Watertown and 2 Medicine Lake; 6 Rush Lake; 5|15, 1 Lake Mary; 5|17, perhaps 6 and 1 east of Poinsett; 5|19, 1 north of Goodwin, 2 near Watertown, 3 Rush Lake; 5|25, 1; 5|26, 5 Waubay region.
- (12) **Greater Yellowlegs.** April 15, 1 S. Waubay Lake; 4|17, 2; 4|27, 1 at Lake Oliver; 10|14, several Lake Mary, Oakwood Lakes, etc.; 10|13, 1 Clear Lake; 10|18, 1 Lake Norden.
- (13) **Lesser Yellowlegs.** April 7, 4 Lake Oliver; 4|14, 2; 4|15, only 2 or 3; 4|17, few; 4|18, 3 or 4; 4|20, about 20; 4|27 and 4|29, several; 5|5, 5|7, 5|10, 5|15, 5|17, 5|25, few seen. 7|1, 1; 7|8, about 8 north of Clear Lake; 7|12 and 7|13, several; 7|17, about 40 north of Goodwin; 7|19, 7|20, 7|21, 7|24, few seen; 8|2, a number near Clear Lake; 8|23, 8|22, 8|26, many seen; 9|2 and 9|9, some at Lake Mary and at Hayti; 9|19, few found on trip; 9|22,

about 25 north of Goodwin; 9|30 and 10|9, few; 10|14 and 10|18, several; 10|22, 1; also 6 or 7 Lake Mary; 11|1, 1 at Clear Lake.

- (14) **American Knot:** Not seen. Rare or accidental in South Dakota.
- (15) **Pectoral Sandpiper.** April 7, 5 near Lake Cochrane; 4|14, 2 Lake Oliver; 4|23, several; 4|27, many northwest of Nassau; 5|4, about 30 east of Brandt; 5|5, common at several places; 5|6 and 5|7, plentiful; 5|8, many scattered and nice flock on high ground; 5|10, numerous; 5|13, quite common; 5|19, few if any on trip to Waubay; 7|12, 1 north of Clear Lake; 7|13, 2; 7|17, about 50 north of Goodwin; 7|19, 7|21, 7|24, some seen here and there; 8|2 and 8|9, 8|20, few; many north of Lake Alice. 8|22, increased number; 8|26, about 60 north of Clear Lake; 8|30, few; 9|2, a number Lake Mary; 9|20, 2 Clear Lake; 9|21, 5 on Clear Lake; 10|9, 1 with 12 Sand-erlings on Clear Lake; 10|15, 4; 10|17, 16 Clear Lake; 10|22, few.
- (16) **White-rumped Sandpiper.** May 13, 10 on Rush Lake; 5|19, 25 north of Clear Lake, some north of Goodwin and very many Rush Lake; 5|26, plentiful enough; 6|1, few; but 20 north of Goodwin; 8|2, 1 Clear Lake.
- (17) **Baird's Sandpiper.** April 8, 5 Lake Oliver; 4|15, 3 or 4 north of Goodwin; 4|17, 6 near Lake Cochrane; 4|21, 2 Oakwood Lakes; 4|23, 5; 4|24, about 15 near Lake Cochrane.
- (18) **Least Sandpiper.** April 27, 1; 5|8, several Rush Lake; 5|13, many at Rush Lake; 5|19, few; 7|17, 1; 7|21, 4.
- (19) **Dunlin.** May 13, 4 on Rush Lake.
- (20) **Dowitcher.** May 5, about 80 on Rush Lake; 5|6, 25 counted at 7

miles east of Clear Lake; 5|8, few Rush Lake, some near Watertown and very many at Waubay; 5|19, 1 Rush Lake; 9|2, 20 Lake Mary; 9|9, 30 Lake Mary; 9|19; 25 to 30 on Poinsett outlet; 9|22, 1; 10|9, 100 at Lake Albert; 10|14, about 100 Lake Mary and 25 Oakwood Lakes; 10|16, 200 Lake Mary; 25 on Poinsett outlet and 100 Lake Marsh; 10|18, about 100 Hayti, some Lake Mary; 10|22, 300 Lake Mary; 11|2, 20 Lake Mary.

- (21) **Stilt Sandpiper.** May 8, 1 Rush Lake; 5|11, 8 east of Altamont; 5|12, 14 west of Lake Cochrane; 5|13, 10 Rush Lake; 5|19, 15 near Watertown and many Rush Lake; 5|26, same as 5|19. 7|17, 15 north of Goodwin; 7|19, 3 near Clear Lake; 7|21, 3 Clear Lake and 5 west of Tunerville; 8|4, 8|7, 8|9 and 8|12, 1 each day near Clear Lake; 9|2, 200 Lake Mary; 9|17, many Lake Mary and at Hayti; 9|19, strong 250 at Hayti and 100 north end of the bay north of Hayti; also near 200 on Lake Mary; 9|21, same as the 19th and 9|30 again the same; 10|6, about 50 on Lake Mary; 10|9, maybe 50 Lake Mary; 10|14, 50 Lake Mary; 10|16, few Hayti and Lake Mary; 10|22, none found.
- (22) **Semipalmated Sandpiper.** May 7, about 20 seen; 5|10, few; 5|11, 3; 5|12, quite a number; 5|13, many near Watertown and on Rush Lake; 5|15, plentiful; 5|19, several places, and very many Rush Lake; 5|23, 20 near Lake Cochrane; 5|25, not at all scarce; 5|26, many; 6|1, 2. 7|17, 1; 8|9, few; 10|16, dozen Lake Marsh and few Lake Mary.
- (23) **Buff-breasted Sandpiper.** Not seen.
- (24) **Marbled Godwit.** April 5, 1 near Troy and 1 south Waubay Lake;



Pintail

—Drawing and Etching
 Courtesy E. W. Steffen

- 4|17, 3 near Lake Cochrane; 4|20, 5 Clear Lake; 4|24, 2 Clear Lake; 4|27, 6 northwest of Nassau; 4|29, 5 east of Clear Lake; 5|5, 2 Bitter Lake, 3 Rush Lake and 5 others; 5|6, 2; 5|8, seen on Rush Lake and 6 on Lake Minnewasta; 5|13, 1 or 2 Rush Lake, 5|17, 6 east of Poinsett; 5|19, 3 near Watertown, 3 Lake Kampeska and 10 Rush Lake; 5|26, 2 at Waubay; 7|1, 3 adults north of Clear Lake.
- (25) **Hudsonian Godwit.** April 17, 9 near Lake Cochrane; 4|21, 5 Oak-wood Lakes; 4|22, 5 east of Clear Lake; 4|23, 1; 4|29, 2 at Thomas; 5|5, 3 Rush Lake; 5|8, few Rush Lake and 6 Lake Minnewasta; 5|11, 2 east of Altamont; 5|13, few Rush Lake and 2 near Watertown; 5|17, 8 east of Lake Poinsett; 5|19, 1 north of Goodwin, 1 Watertown and 12 Rush Lake.
- (26) **Sanderling.** April 27, 1 north of Lake Alice; 5|19 and 5|26, 3 Rush Lake; 8|9, 2 north of Clear Lake; 9|20, dozen on Clear Lake; 10|9, 12 Clear Lake; 10|14, 4 Lake Mary.
- (27) **Avocet.** April 13, 2 Lake John; 4|15, 2 So. Waubay Lake; 4|29, 1 on Lake Marsh; 5|5, 3 Rush Lake; 5|8, 1 Rush Lake and 2 on Salt Lake; 5|13, 3 near Watertown, 1 Medicine Lake and 26 Rush Lake; 5|17, 2 on Poinsett outlet; 5|19, 3 near Watertown and 10 Rush Lake; 5|26, 8 on trip to Waubay; 9|17, about 60 on Lake Marsh; 9|19, not found; 9|21, 2 Lake Marsh; 10|9, 6 at Hayti and 60 on Lake Marsh.
- (28) **Wilson's Phalarope.** April 29, 5 Clear Lake and 4 Hayti; 5|5, several places, total about 40; 5|6 and 5|8, not scarce; 5|10, many on Goodwin lakes; 5|12, 25 west of Lake Cochrane; 5|13, many Rush Lake; 5|15, plentiful; 5|19, likewise; 5|25, dozen or more. Now scarce.
- (29) **Northern Phalarope.** May 25, 3 north of Lake Alice; 9|2, 1 Lake Mary.—Brandt.

Migration Dates from the Whetstone Valley, Roberts County

Bruce K. Harris

Species	Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1946	1947	1952	1953	1961
Common Loon				4-22	4-12	4-13					
Pied-billed Grebe				5-12	5- 1	5-31	4-14		5-12		
White Pelican	4-23	5- 9	4- 7	4-21	4-19	4-11			5- 4		
Double-crested Cormorant		4-30	4-19	4-10	4-19	3-24					
Green Heron					5-31		5-28		5- 4		5-21
Black-crowned Night Heron	4-28	5- 7	4-21			4-18	4- 4				
American Bittern	5-25	5-12	5-11			4-24	4-22		5- 2		5-21
Whistling Swan	4-10	4- 1	4-17	4- 5			3-24				
Canada Goose	3-19	4-25	4- 5	4-11	3-22	3-24		3-23			
Snow Goose	3-27	3-31	4- 5		4- 4	3-24					
Blue Goose	3-27	3-21	4- 5	3-29	3-23	3-31					
Mallard	3-20	3-21	4- 2	3-22	3-18	3-14		3-22			
Gadwall		3-25				4- 4	3-31				
American Widgeon		4- 2	4- 7	4-10	4- 2	3-31		3-29			
Pintail	3-20	3-21	3-30	3-29	3-18	3-23		3-23			
Green-wing Teal		4- 9	4-15	4-11	4- 4	3-31		3-29			
Blue-wing Teal	3-26	3-26	4-21	4-10	4-11	3-31					
Shoveler	3-27	3-26	4- 3	4-10	4- 9	3-24					
Redhead	3-26	3-26	4-14	4-10		3-31					
Canvasback	4-17	3-26	4-19			4- 4	3-27				
Lesser Scaup	3-26		4-14	4-10			3-22				
Ring-necked Duck	3-27		4-25			4- 2	3-24				
Bufflehead				4-11	4-11	3-24					
Common Merganser			4-14			3-29	3-27	3-22			
Red-tailed Hawk		3-26		3-29	3-29	3-24		3-27			
Broad-winged Hawk	4- 2	5- 2	5-11			4-23	5-15				
Rough-legged Hawk*			3-22			4- 8	3-24				
Marsh Hawk	4-28	3-25	4- 4	3-28	3-13	3-17		3-22			
Sparrow Hawk	4-28	4- 1	4- 6	4- 8	4- 2	3-13					
American Coot	3-26	4- 7	4- 7	4-18	4- 9	4-20					
Semipalmated Plover	5- 9	5-10					5-16				5-21
Killdeer		3-21	4- 7	3-29	3-19	3-14					
Golden Plover	5- 7	5-16				5-19					
Ruddy Turnstone	5-21	5- 2					5-16			5-18	5-21
Common Snipe	4-14	4-24	4-21	4-11	4-15	3-31					
Upland Plover	4-28	5- 3	4-29	5- 3	4-24	4-27		5- 2			
Spotted Sandpiper	5-22	5- 3	5-16	5- 4	5- 2	5-16					5-21
Solitary Sandpiper			5- 1	5- 3	5- 6	4-28					5-21
Willet	5-22	5-10				5-14	5-19		5- 2		5-21

Species	Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1946	1947	1952	1953	1961
Greater Yellowlegs	..	5- 6		5- 1	4-22	4-18		3-30			
Lesser Yellowlegs	---		5- 2	4-29	4-22	4-15	4-17				
Pectoral Sandpiper	---		5-10	5- 4	4-30	5-16	5-27		5- 2		5-21
Dowitcher, sp.	5-12			5-14	5-16					5-21
Wilson Phalarope	---	5-10	5- 2	5-29		4-30	4-29		5- 2		
Herring Gull	4- 2	3-19	4- 2	4- 4	3-22	3-22				
Franklin Gull	4-17	4-13	4-14	4-14	4-15	4-13		5- 2		
Tern, sp.		4-30	5-11	5-31	4-30	4- 4				5-30
Black Tern	5-13	5-14	5-11	5-14	5-14	5-16				
Mourning Dove	3-19	4-12	4- 6	4- 4	4-18	4- 2				
Black-billed Cuckoo	..	5- 1		5-30	5-30		5-27				
Burrowing Owl		4- 8	4-26	4-20		4-19				
Common Nighthawk	---	5-24	5-21	5-16	5-21	5-19	5-22		5- 4		5-21
Chimney Swift		5-13	5-18	5-11	5-16	5- 9		5- 4		5-27
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		5-27			5-15	5-18				
Belted Kingfisher	---	3-20	4- 2	4-14	3-29	4-11	3-27				
Yellow-shafted Flicker	4- 2	4-15	4-14	4-11	4-11	3-24				
Red-headed Woodpecker	3-19	5-16	4- 6	5-14	5-19	5-16		5- 4		
Eastern Kingbird	---	5-21	5-14	5-11	5-11	5-10	5-16		5- 4		
Arkansas Kingbird	---	5-12	5-10	5- 9	5-11	5- 4	5- 9		5- 4		
Great Crested Flycatcher	5-28	5-27		5-17	6- 1	5-27		5- 4	5-20	
Eastern Phoebe	4-16	4-30	4- 6	4-10	4-11	3-28				
Least Flycatcher	5-15	5-14	5-16	5-14	5-20	5-13			5-18	5-21
Wood Pewee	5- 2	5-26	5-29	5-17	5-28	5-27			5-18	
Tree Swallow	5-12	6- 5			5- 9	5-15			5-20	5-21
Bank Swallow	4-30	5- 7	5-12	5-10	5-10	5-16		5- 2		5-21
Rough-winged Swallow	5-23	4-30	5- 4	4-26	5-10	4-29		5- 2	5-20	
Barn Swallow	4-30	5-22	5-24	5-11	4-25	4-30		5- 4		
Purple Martin	5- 5	5- 6	4-17	5- 4	4-24	4-22		5- 2		5-21
House Wren	4-16	5- 2	5-12	5- 4	5- 3	5- 1		5- 2		
Robin	3-13	3-21	3-30	3-28	3-18	3-19				
Catbird	5-15	5-17	5-15	5-11	5-15	5-13		5- 4		
Brown Thrasher	4-27	5- 3	5-11	4-30	4-24	5- 1		5- 2		
Olive-backed Thrush				5-15	5- 3	5- 2	5-15		5- 2	5-19	5-21
Gray-cheeked Thrush				5-15		5-10	5-24			5-20	
Veery			6-11	5-31	5-17				5-20	5-21
Bluebird	3-30	3-24	4- 6	4-11	3-18	3-24				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3-20	4- 9		4- 9	4-11	3-24				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4-14	4-23	4-24	4-22	4-11	4-15		5- 4		
Cedar Waxwing	5-17		3-31	5-22	3-22	5-22				5-21
Shrike	4-23	4-12	4-14	4-12	4- 8	3-30				
Yellow-throated Vereo	5-15	5-10	5-16	5-13	5-24	5-16		5- 2		
Red-eyed Vereo		5-21	5-29	5-17	5-22	5-24		5- 4	5-18	

Species	Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1946	1947	1952	1953	1961
Warbling Vereo	-----	5-15	5-16	5-18	5-14	5-16	5-17		5- 4	5-18	5-21
Black-and-white Warbler	-----	5-11	5-16	5-16		5- 9	5-15		5- 2		5-21
Tennessee Warbler	-----			5-17	5-14	5-20	5-16			5-19	5-21
Orange-crowned Warbler	-----	5-11	4-30	5- 1	5- 2	4-25	4-24				
Yellow Warbler	-----	5-12	5- 7	5- 5	5- 4	5- 7	5-12		5- 4		
Magnolia Warbler	-----	5-18	5-17	5-14		5-16	5-20			5-20	5-21
Myrtle Warbler	-----	4-23	4-23	4-20	4-26	4-15	4-17		5- 2		
Bay-breasted Warbler	-----	5-17	5-25			5-17					
Black-poll Warbler	-----	5-12	5-14	5-12	5-11	5-18	5-16			5-20	5-21
Palm Warbler	-----	5-12	5- 6	5- 4	4-27	5- 2	5-12				
Ovenbird	-----	5-18	5-25	5-11		5-15	5-13			5-20	5-21
Northern Waterthrush	-----	5-12	5-14	5-10	4-30	4-24	4-29		5- 2	5-20	5-21
Mourning Warbler	-----	5-18			5-17	5-22	5-23			5-18	5-29
Northern Yellowthroat	-----	5-12	5-19	5-14	5-17	5-16	5-19				
Wilson's Warbler	-----	5-12	5-17	5-16		5-16	5-16			5-18	5-21
American Redstart	-----	5-12	5-17	5-16	5-11	5-15	5-20			5-20	5-21
Bobolink	-----	5-18	5-13	5-12	5-16	5-16	5-13		5- 4		
Western Meadowlark	-----	3-13	3-19	3-25	3-28	3-22	3-14				
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-----	3-17	4-15	4-29	5- 3	3-19	4-23	3-23			
Red-winged Blackbird	-----	3-19	3-21	3-31	3-29	3-19	3-13	3-23			
Orchard Oriole	-----	5- 3	5-23	5-18	5-16	5-28				5-20	5-27
Baltimore Oriole	-----	5-15	5-11	5-16	5-13	5-15	5-13		5- 2		5-21
Rusty Blackbird	-----			4- 7	4-17	4-15	3-24				
Common Grackle	-----	3-18	3-23	4- 1	4- 1	3-23	3-22	3-27			
Cowbird	-----	4-30	5- 2	4-29	4-26	4-24	3-29				
Scarlet Tanager	-----		5-31	5-30	5-13	5-24	5-27				5-29
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-----	5-15	5- 7	5-15	5-13	5-10	5-15		5- 4		5-21
Goldfinch	-----	5-12	5-10	5-17	5-11	5-10	5- 1		5- 2		
Towhee	-----	4-29	4-27	5- 5	4-23	4-24	4-23				
Savannah Sparrow	-----			5- 4	4-24	4-15	4-24		5- 2		
Grasshopper Sparrow	-----		4-29	4-21	5-14		5-16			5-20	5-21
Vesper Sparrow	-----	4-14	4-23	4-13	4-11	4-15	4-10				
Lark Sparrow	-----	5- 3	5-14	5- 4	5-11	4-25	5- 8		5- 4	5-20	5-21
Slate-colored Junco*	-----			4-14	4-23	4-15	4-24				
Tree Sparrow*	-----			4-14	4-12	4-11	4-11				
Chipping Sparrow	-----	4-14	4-22	5- 2	4-26	4-18	4-15		5- 2		
Clay-colored Sparrow	-----		5-10	5-18	5- 3	5-10	5-16		5- 2		5-21
White-crowned Sparrow	-----			5-10	4-23	5- 8	5-16				
White-throated Sparrow	-----	4-23	4-27	4-29	4-27	4-19	4-19		5- 4		
Fox Sparrow	-----		4-21	4- 6	4- 9	4- 1					
Harris Sparrow	-----	4-29	5- 2	5- 5	4-30	4-24	5-13		5- 4		
Lincoln Sparrow	-----	5-12		5-11	4-27	4-24	5-12			5-20	
Song Sparrow	-----	4-14	3-26	4- 6	4- 4	3-29	3-24				

Field Sparrow _____	5- 1	4-30	4-27	4-26	4-15	4-11	5- 2
Lapland Longspur* ..		3-21	4-14	4-29	5- 8	4-17	3-23
Snow Bunting** _____		10-29	11-25		12-26	12-28	

*Last Spring Dates

**First Fall Dates

GENERAL NOTES . . .

The migration dates presented here were selected to give a picture of spring migration for the more common birds found in Roberts County. Data is available for other species but they are not listed here as the information was limited to one or two years only.

Most of these records were made within a seven mile radius of Wilmot. The majority of them are from three areas: Wilmot; Bullhead Lake, a large slough four miles east of town; and Sodak Park, seven miles east of Wilmot, on Big Stone Lake.

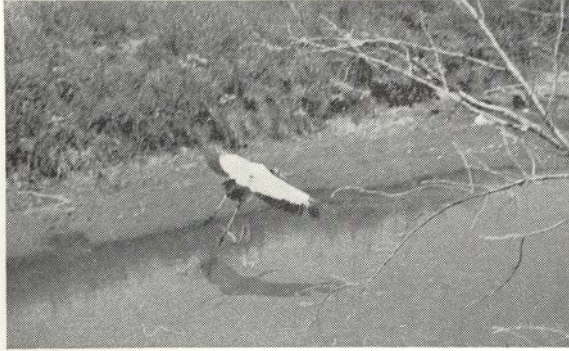
Dates for the period 1938 through 1946 are probably close to first arrival dates for the area, as I spent a good deal of time in the field during those years, while attending school at Wilmot. Information after 1946 was gathered during vacations and week-end trips, and may not represent first arrival dates but is included to supplement data for other years.—1812 Alabama, Silver City, New Mexico.

Hooded Merganser

—Drawing and Etching

Courtesy of E. W. Steffen





South Dakota Visitor

Wood Ibis Northeast of Mitchell

Mr. Robert Moe came into the office one morning and reported a large white bird with black wing-tips which had been seen for a few days on his farm 10 miles east and 10 north of Mitchell, S. Dak. The bird was usually resting or walking along a pool of water in the creek bed. He said he had flushed it a few times, but that it would appear at the same place along the creek later.

I went to the area he described and saw the bird from the road at a distance of about 150 yards. Using binoculars and Peterson's Guide, I could see it was a Wood Ibis.

The bird was apparently resting, as it stood still near the pool of water along the creek bed. It was just below the bluff of the creek bank and it seemed I might get close enough to photograph it without the use of a telescopic lens.

Fortunately there were a few bushes above the bird on the bank and I used these for cover, approaching to within 15 or 20 feet without being seen. As soon as I stood up the bird took off. At this time the picture was taken.

When the bird was in flight, one of the legs was carried straight out behind and the other hung at about a 45 degree angle, which would indicate it was wounded. The time was approximately 2:00 p. m., August 17, 1964. I have not talked to Mr. Moe since that time and so do not know how long the bird stayed in that area.—**Bonar D. Law**, U. S. Game Management Agent, **Mitchell, S. Dak.**



Sprague's Pipit

—Drawing and Halftone Courtesy E. W. Steffen

SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES

Bird Banding on Farm Island

Nelda Holden

DURING the SDOU Spring Meeting held in Pierre May 16, 17, and 18, 1964, five bird banders operated about 20 mist nets on Farm Island. Very good results were obtained with 286 birds banded representing 37 species and one hybrid. Scott Findley banded 45 of these, Nelda Holden 78, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogge 70 and Virgil Van Heuvelen 93. Three good returns were obtained during this banding session. Virgil Van Heuvelen captured a Black-headed Grosbeak that was banded by Nelda Holden July 4, 1963 on Farm Island. The Rogges captured a Catbird that was banded during the SDOU Meeting by Nelda Holden May 26, 1962. The Rogges also caught a Black-headed Grosbeak with a foreign band and this has been reported to the Banding Office to find out who banded it and where. All in all I say that it was a good banding session and I for one would like to see many more of these co-operative banding sessions held in our state.

Here is the list of the birds banded by the group:

1. Yellow-shafted Flicker (1 a hybrid)	2	20. Yellow Warbler	23
2. Downy Woodpecker	1	21. Magnolia Warbler	1
3. Great Crested Flycatcher	1	22. Black-poll Warbler	1
4. Traill's Flycatcher	1	23. Ovenbird	6
5. Least Flycatcher	9	24. Yellow-breasted Chat	32
6. Western Flycatcher	5	25. Yellowthroat	1
7. Western Wood Pewee	2	26. Wilson's Warbler	1
8. Bank Swallow (injured)	1	27. American Redstart	48
9. Blue Jay	1	28. Baltimore Oriole	5
10. House Wren	4	29. Bullock's Oriole	1
11. Catbird	23	30. Brown-headed Cowbird	8
12. Brown Thrasher	9	31. Scarlet Tanager	1
13. Swainson's Thrush	15	32. Cardinal	1
14. Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	33. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
15. Wood Thrush	2	34. Black-headed Grosbeak	44
16. Bell's Vireo	3	35. Lazuli Bunting	2
17. Red-eyed Vireo	14	36. American Goldfinch	1
18. Warbling Vireo	5	37. Rufous-sided towhee (Spotted)	6
19. Black-and-White Warbler	4		286

SDOU Mid-winter Meeting

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
January 23-24, 1965

SATURDAY

- 7:00- 8:00 p. m. Registration
8:00- 9:00 Films, get-together

SUNDAY

- 9:00- 9:30 a. m. Registration
9:30-12:00 a. m. Tentative paper program: Papers by Dr. Willard
Rosine, Dr. N. R. Whitney, Jr., Charles and Gladys
Rogge, Mrs. John Lueshen
12:00- 1:30 Lunch, Augustana Commons
1:30- 3:30 p. m. Papers: Nelda Holden, Warren Jackson
Reports of Bird Banders
Business Meeting
Adjournment

Headquarters: Science Hall, Augustana College, where all activities
will take place.

Reservations: Lindendale Motel, S. Hwy. 77, Sioux Falls. Singles,
\$6.50; double, \$9.00; two doubles (4 people), \$12.00.
(Management requests all reservations be prepaid;
acknowledgement follows.) The motel closest to the
college.

Town House Motel, 415 S. Phillips. Singles, \$8.25
(plus tax); double, \$10.50 (plus tax); twins, \$12.00-
\$16.00 (plus tax).

Please make reservations directly with the motel managements.
Send reservations for luncheon **by January 15**, to
Mrs. Max Pierce, 2020 South Grange, Sioux Falls

Birds' Nests of South Dakota

L. J. Moriarty

A. O. U. #221 AMERICAN COOT

(*Fulica americana*)

THE coot nests abundantly in Eastern South Dakota. The nests can be found in almost any lake, slough, or pothole that has a growth of either the broad-leaved or narrow-leaved cattail, more frequently among the former.

The nest used for display and breeding is built on a heap of broken-down cattails and is usually no more than an inch above water and about one foot in diameter. This is built first.

While the first is in use the egg nest is built on a foundation of some sort. The first materials used are coarse stems of cattail which act as floats. As the nest proceeds, finer materials are added, usually the leaves of cattail. The rim is generally 5 or 6 inches above water and the cup is composed of circularly laid cattail leaves. The cup diameter is about 6 inches and the depth 1 to 2 inches.

A landing ramp is built of coarse cattail laid lengthwise from one side and leading to a lane of open water. This allows the birds to leave and enter without damaging the nest. The whole is a well constructed raft which is added to constantly to keep it from settling into the water. The result is a great mass of material.

From 6 to 18 eggs are laid, 8-9 most commonly. Incubation starts with the first or second egg; thus the hatch extends over a considerable period. Both birds incubate until hatching begins. From then on, the male cares for the young until the last are hatched.

During the period of incubation, a third or brood nest is built which is usually larger than the egg nest and will measure 18 inches in diameter and 6 inches high. Usually a platform without a cup, this nest too has a ramp and must be continually added to.

These nests, along with many unused ones, keep the birds pretty well occupied with building. They are nearly always built in clumps of cattails with some overhead cover, that improves as the new growth emerges. Other plants are used in construction at times but generally in this area, cattail appears to be the material of choice. The nests are most often in water from a few inches to about 2 feet deep, probably because this is the depth in which the cattail thrives.

The eggs are of light tan ground color with profuse very fine black or brown specks distributed generally over the entire surface. They are of rather rough texture and conical in shape, measuring about 50x34 mm, but may vary from this size.

Early in the egg-laying period the birds make no defense against human passersby, but, as incubation advances, they become quite bold. At all times they defend their rather small nest territory against intruders of their own kind.

Nesting begins usually during the third week of May in our area. Many first clutches are completed in early June. Second nestings are common, at least following unsuccessful first attempts. As a result nests with eggs are common well into July.—Watertown.

General Notes of Special Interest

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON
SOUTHEAST OF ARLINGTON—On June 27, 1964, on the pond north of Highway 14 a little over 2 miles south-east of Arlington, we saw a Yellow-crowned Night Heron. We were able to photograph it twice with the long lens before it flew to the far side of the pond. The photo enclosed shows the bird clearly enough except for a blade of grass that got in the way. We have a perfect picture of it just as it emerged from behind the grass, so you are welcome to keep this one.

Returning this way July 6 in hopes of seeing the bird again, we were unable to locate it, though it may well have been hidden in the grass of any of the four ponds in the immediate area.—Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Goldberg, 1915 Palace Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn.

(Editor's Note: A color slide was sent to Dr. L. J. Moriarty with the report from which the above note was abstracted and is now in his possession. It shows the Yellow-crowned Night Heron sharply enough for certain identification and would be an excellent picture but for the misfortune of the blade of grass referred to above.)

* * * *

TOWHEES AT HURON—Interest in subspecies of towhees, sharpened by the 1963 observations here (Bird Notes XVI:32) and Huber's comments (B. N. XVI:51) caused me to take particular note of our first towhee of the fall migration, September 22, 1964. It was in the morning, shortly before 8:00 a. m. The bird, a beautiful male with hardly a bit of white showing except

in the tail and a bit in the lower edge of the primaries was on top of a wire dove trap in the yard when I first saw it.

A little later it had entered the trap and I hoped to band it. But, when I started to take it out, the bird, deciding it was slimmer than it had first thought, was able to squeeze through the meshes of the trap and escape. While this towhee was about the yard at intervals during that day, it was not seen on later days.

To sharpen the contrast, the other form, *P. e. arcticus*, also a male, appeared the morning of September 25 and was last seen September 28. This bird, with its white-spotted back, now appeared positively flamboyant to us compared to the first.

The next Towhees appeared Oct. 2, two males, also with spotted backs. The next day there were five about the yard, 3 males and 2 females, all well spotted with white to their shawls. Only one remained the morning of Oct. 4 and one was with us each day until it was last seen Oct. 7, 1964. Thus all these birds except the first were our common form, *arcticus*.—J. W. Johnson, Huron.

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CORRECTION

Paul F. Springer, South Dakota Co-operative Wildlife Unit, South Dakota State University, Brookings, called our attention to the error in the caption under the picture on page 79 of the last issue (XVI:79). Obviously the bird pictured is the Blackburnian Warbler

and not the Black-throated Green. The latter is correctly pictured in the June, 1964, issue (XVI:39).

Bruce Harris: Nesting Birds of Roberts County, September issue (XVI:66) has now advised that his data is probably insufficient to justify the inclusion of the Brown Creeper as a nesting species in Roberts County, South Dakota.

* * * *

MARTIN HOUSES—One of the things brought out at a recent meeting of the bird banders was in the discussion of why young martins die. Examination showed an overwhelming amount of parasites and it was suggested that the martin house be disinfected in the fall with a solution of Methoxachlor (Not D. D. T.) as it does not kill birds or, in the spring, clean the house with a solution of Lysol.—Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Newsletter.

* * * *

INDIGO BUNTINGS AT HURON—Beginning June 13, 1964, with the discovery of a singing male, followed by that of an additional pair and nest, and the recognition by sound of the presence of the mate of the first male on July 12, two pairs of Indigo Buntings have been regularly observed all summer at Huron.

The exact location is a thicket along the foot of the westerly bluffs of the James River at points below the ends of Fifth and Seventh Streets.

The nest of the second pair was also found July 12, and then contained very young, though down-covered birds. The female was seen to carry food to the nest, which was located in a weed patch nearly under the wire generally used as a singing perch by the male. It was in the wild rose bush, about one foot from the ground and a foot below the tops of the surrounding green weeds.

DECEMBER, 1964

On July 17, both males were on their usual perches, on the wires paralleling the foot of the bluffs. This time both were using the two-note call, monotonously repeated. Similar pairs of notes, presumably by the females, occasionally answered from concealment.

Checking the nest this date, I found at least one young bird looking up at me with wide-eyed alertness, its feathers showing a bluish tinge.

On July 18, the nest was empty, except for one unhatched egg. The female came while we watched from a short distance, called, and went down into the weeds, carrying a small green worm. Three times she came and went, always bringing the same type larvae.

Returning past the territory of the north pair, we saw the brown female for the first time, added evidence for a nest there also.

On July 21, about 7:00 P. M., a female Indigo Bunting was feeding a young bird with a yellowish-edged mouth and down still clinging to its feathers in a thicket some fifty feet north of the south nest site. The abandoned nest was collected on this date and will be sent to Dr. Moriarty.

On July 26, at 6:30 p. m. the north male (the first found) was singing again on the wire and we could hear the two notes, presumed to be from the female, in the thicket.

A glimpse was allowed of a bird judged to be of the young of the south pair at a point near where it had been fed July 21.

On our way back toward the north station we saw a blue male, or young male (for it seemed to have some brown and gray on the flanks) chasing other birds, even robins, out of the low bushes, though ignoring those on higher perches. It seems highly probable that there were more of the species present than we had at first thought.

97

On several occasions we had seen what had appeared to be bluish birds with more or less brown and gray mixed with the blue and had hesitated to identify them at the time. Later study, including Roberts (1955, p. 705) makes clear that indigo buntings, particularly during their second summer, may have varied mixtures of brown and gray.

August 2, 1964, at 5:30 p. m., the north male was singing on the wire near the thicket we presumed concealed the nest. We saw no sign of the south pair or their young.

On August 15, at 6:30 p. m., both pairs were in the vicinity of their singing perches. We could hear the familiar pair of notes from two locations in each territory. At the south location a little later a blue bird flew out and into an adjacent field, presumably the male of that pair.

The birds were observed in detail at close range on all the above noted and other occasions during the period with 7x50 binoculars, by Blanche Battin and ourselves. In addition, the first male was seen by a number of others, including Mary Aberdeen Ketelle, who was present when it was first discovered on June 13, Carrie Pierce, and Jean Jonkel. The four adults were identical in detail with pictures in the various guides.

There appears to be no reasonable doubt that two nesting pairs were more or less successful in bringing off young here this summer. The birds showing the brown and gray mixtures would be either an earlier hatch this season or birds of last year.

It is hoped this small colony of the species will continue in the area. Their return next spring to the same territory will be awaited with much interest, for the species has not been at all common here in our time. Prior to this

season we have seen only three individuals in the region in the past 25 years.

—J. W. and Lucille Johnson.

* * * *

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK AT MELLETTE—On June 17, 1962, we had a Black-headed Grosbeak singing and feeding all day long, from early in the morning until sundown—eating cracked grain and watering in the shallow bird bath located on the ground near the sweet pea fence.—Earl and Doris Watters, Mellette.

* * * *

BARRED OWL FOUND NEAR YANKTON—On March 16, 1964, Curtis Twedt and Ray Hart, Research Biologists, Dept. of Game, Fish, and Parks, picked up a road killed Barred Owl at the Highway 50 crossing of the James River east of Yankton.

The good condition of the specimen, which was afterward mounted, led Hart to believe that it might well have been killed on the spot rather than carried for any distance.

* * * *

ANY CATTLE EGRETS seen the past summer? There were several at Sand Lake Refuge in 1962, one of which lingered until October 25, when I was directed to its feeding area by Manager Schoonover. Following his instructions, I saw the bird in a pasture from which the cattle had just been removed. It looked just like its pictures, though smaller than I had imagined it. Walking about importantly on its long legs, it was finding plenty of insects all alone. It took little notice of my approach on foot until I was within about 30 feet. Even then the bird showed no alarm, merely working away to keep that distance as minimum.

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to get a written account of their occurrence of that summer.—Editor.

BELLE FOURCHE NOTES—Two bunches of colored Indian ear corn, with husks, are hung from our terrace posts each fall for bird food. It's on these clusters that blue jays perform their clown acts. Here the evening grosbeaks perch for a kernel or two to thin down the richness of the sunflower seeds on the feeding tray.

But ears of colored corn with the husk are not summer decorations, even for a terrace. In fact, we have been reminded by home decorators that they are fall and winter trappings. We were thinking of taking them down . . . but not now . . . not since we have found that every morning a pair of black-headed grosbeaks breakfast there.

A black-headed grosbeak is no ordinary visitor. He observes a setting and special food. He is a bird of our area—the western version of the famous rose-breasted grosbeak of the east and south. He's the length of the evening grosbeak, but is slender, not chunky. He is rusty breasted with black head and black wings dashingly marked in white. In full flight he suggests the spotted towhee. The female is a brownish sparrow-colored bird with a striped head. In a good light, her breast shows a tawny wash. Of course, the identifying feature is the big bill.

Every year the black-headed grosbeak has appeared on our hill—off and on, as if resting on the way somewhere else. This is the first time it ever has fed on the terrace regularly. Consequently, from now on—whether the decorations are in season or not—Indian corn will hang from our terrace posts in summer.

Although we have never seen one on our hill, there is another grosbeak in the locality, seen frequently in wooded spots around Belle Fourche. It's the blue grosbeak. It is slightly smaller than the black-headed, but has the same slender figure—not a fatty like

the evening grosbeak. It is not the brilliant blue of the mountain bluebird, but a darker tone. At a distance it looks black. It is all deep blue, however, except for brown on the wings. In full sun, the blue is positive. The female is brownish, has shadings of both blue and tawny, and of course the big bill. Thus, we have in this vicinity three grosbeaks—the evening, the black-headed and the blue.

There's Indian corn on the terrace—and will be the year around. And someday, we feel confident, we will find a blue grosbeak there feeding with his cousins—the evening and the black-headed grosbeaks. Why shouldn't we? It's less than a mile by wing from the wooded spots where we have seen blue grosbeaks. And who knows but that they already have fed on that corn? The kernels are disappearing rapidly from the cobs.

Good Birding

We have seen a greater variety of birds on our hill the past week than we have seen all summer. The reason is that the robins, which staked first claim to the hill as their nesting area, have passed the urges of family raising and now are permitting other birds to perch, water and feed here. Until recently, any bird which stayed too long was chased away by one or more robins. It was strictly "no trespassing."

Now that the hill has become free territory, every day brings new birds, many of them in small flocks of both young and old. This leads us to believe that our yard and the timbered draws have become a refuge for many varieties in that August lull when the birds molt, build body strength and train the young for migration.

Through the heat of the day, the birds rest in the trees, making only short flights for food and water. But in the early morning, they show them-

selves, perching on the branches of tree and shrub, catching insects in the air or feeding on the ground.

In the past week we have seen the veery and olive-backed thrush; the brown thrasher and catbird; the yellow warbler, yellowthroat, vireo and red-start; the Baltimore, Bullock and orchard oriole; the pewee, western and eastern kingbird; the flicker, downy and hairy woodpecker—and on and on. One can't help thinking how interesting it would be if the robins didn't police the yard so tightly in early summer.

Good birding time is at hand. Now the summer residents are gathering with their kind to prepare for migration, and stay as long as the weather is enjoyable. From the north and elsewhere in this area, birds will gather in this foothills belt which is a minor flyway. Good birding has begun.—**Irma Weyler, Belle Fourche Daily Post.**

* * * *

WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS IN WEBSTER AREA—On the table before me as I write, stands a mounted specimen of waterfowl which I have identified as a White-winged Scoter, female. The picture in Peterson's *Field Guide* leaves no real doubt of that.

The overall color is dull brown, lighter below, the central breast area having feathers barred and edged with white, giving a brownish gray effect. The feet are full webbed except that the hind toe is lobed. Legs and feet are black, though they may have actually darkened somewhat with the aging of the specimen.

Conspicuous are the wing patches of white, even in the folded wings of the specimen, as is also the light patch behind the eye. A smaller and less prominent gray patch can be seen between the eye and the bill.

The bill is much like the picture of that of the female of Roberts (1955)

the difference presumably being due to the drying of many years.

Estimating the length as well as possible from the rigid specimen, it would run well over 20 inches when whole and fresh.

There appears no possibility of the bird being anything else than what it first appeared: The female white-winged scoter described and pictured by Peterson, Roberts, Pough, et al. (Kestright pp. 325
C.M. Vol XVII; 24
or imm of undet
minded)

Herman Chilson, Webster, whose search resulted in the specimen being brought to me, furnishes the information that this bird was shot by a party of hunters at Sunnybrook Pass on Minnewasta Lake, Day County, in 1923, one of a flock of 5 or 6, and the only one taken. It was shot by E. A. Sewell, Webster, and he did not know it was a scoter until they picked up the dead birds. The specimen was mounted by Earl Potter, Webster, who died in 1925. The mounted bird has been in the E. A. Sewell family since that time and was lately given to his son, Dr. Warren Sewell, Webster. It was brought to me from Webster for study by Mrs. S. E. Sewell, 1830 McClellan Drive, Huron.

Other white-winged scoters are also reported by Chilson: One shot by him in the early 1940's on Rush Lake when in company with Art Lundquist, Ed von Rohr, and Lawrence Wist. Art asked for the bird and had it mounted. So far this specimen has not been located.

Guff Hawkinson, one of the veteran hunters of the area, shot 3 scoters in 1920 on Sunnybrook Pass. The birds came from the north, 7 or 8 in the flock. He had a side shot and got 3 of them. None of the hunters of his party knew what they were at the time. This was the first time Hawkinson had seen one.

On May 9, 1964 Herb Krause and Herman Chilson saw a White-winged

Scoter in a rocky bay at the south end of Bitter Lake.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

* * * *

YOUNG SWAINSON'S HAWKS NEAR HURON—Two hawks sitting in the middle of the dirt crossroad caused us to slow down, although we had not been driving fast but, rather, bird browsing, a few miles north of Huron. Momentarily we expected they would fly off; but they continued to sit and watch us while we eased the car to within fifteen feet and stopped.

They had very dark brown on head, back, wings, tail, and covering their upper breasts, but ending in a bib effect that identified them as Swainson's Hawks. They watched us, completely unafraid.

Soon one of them flew off a short way to light on a wire. It made a difficult landing and had trouble getting both feet on the wire at the same time. Finally landed, it started to fold its wings; but the high wind bothered so much it finally opened them partially for balance.

A small, sparrow-sized bird (we were so intent on the hawks, we failed to identify it) flew up and poised above the young hawk for a moment, as though to drive it away, then dropped down to sit on the wire about a foot away from the hawk as though it had decided the youngster had enough trouble without adding any more.

The second hawk now tried its wings, made a hesitant takeoff, forgetting for a moment to pull up its feet, and, after circling, lit on the wire near the first hawk. After a few moments of teetering it evidently preferred terra firma and flew back to its spot in the road in front of the car, where it sat and stared at us some more.

The first hawk finally gave up trying

to relax on the wire and flew off to a hay stack in the field.

We had been wondering about the parents and why they were not warning their offspring of the dangers of cars and people. Now we noticed them across the field near the hay stack and, as though feeling left behind, the second youngster flew off to join them.

We drove off too, feeling completely charmed by their awkward innocence.—**Blanche Battin, Huron.**

* * * *

CRESTED FLYCATCHER AT HURON

—It was late in the afternoon of August 23, 1964. Among the many birds about our backyard was one I first thought of as a western kingbird. But a moment later the yellow wing-bars and edging on the primaries sent me scurrying into the house for a Peterson.

When I returned moments later the bird had moved but it darted above the nearby trees to give a clear view of the dark head and rusty-red tail in the rays of the setting sun.

So this was a crested flycatcher, the first we have seen in the yard and the first we know of in the area.—**J. W. Johnson.**

THE COVER

Seldom if ever do the files yield up picture and text going together as do Fred Kent's (Iowa City, Ia.) Coot nest and Dr. Moriarty's current Bird Nest. Rarity rates remark. Fred's picture was taken at Swan Lake. His observation: "Often with slope at one side for entrance or exit" is treated further by L. J.

LESSER GOLDFINCH AT SIOUX CITY, IOWA—Mrs. Edward Rogers, 2812 South Mulberry St. reported seeing some birds in her yard that were strange to her and invited us to come and see them. She said they usually appeared toward the latter part of the afternoon, and more often on bright days when they were also more active, flitting and darting among the shrubs and trees. But she has never seen them eat at the bird feeder nor drink or bathe at the electrically heated bird bath.

My husband and I went to the Rogers residence Thursday afternoon, January 16. Two birds had arrived and had gone to roost in a low vine and were perched about eight feet above the ground. Mrs. Rogers does not know the name of the vine, but the leaves were similar in size and shape to those of the American Elm. The birds tucked themselves in among the leaves which afforded them considerable protection. We had been there only a short time when Mr. Herrold Asmussen, biology teacher at Central High School in Sioux City, joined us. The birds allowed us to come within six feet of them or less so we could observe them both with and without binoculars. The following marks of identification were noted: about five inches long, fairly dark finch-shaped bill, dark eyes, legs and feet, dark greenish back, rump and tail, notched tail, blackish wings with long horizontal white wing bar and white-edged primaries. The face and throat were a yellowish color, breast a grayish-white with a distinct line separating the throat and breast of the one bird. The face of the other bird was not so yellow nor was the line between the throat and breast so distinct. The tail was light underneath. After studying Peterson's Bird Guides, the three of us determined the birds to be the lesser goldfinch.

Mrs. Rogers told us that the birds (at least four) started coming to her yard some time in the fall and came quite regularly until January 18 when she saw them for the last time this winter. By then, the leaves on the vine were curled quite tightly no longer affording the protection they once had. This may be the reason they no longer use the vine for a roost. She believes that this same flock of birds were in her yard and roosting in the same vine for about the same period of time during the winter of 1962-1963.

This bird is normally seen in the western and southwestern part of the United States and as far as we have been able to determine, has never before been recorded in the state of Iowa. Mr. Chilson believes the bird has been in this area before, but just has not been observed and reported. Mrs. Rogers' statement would tend to bear out his belief.

Since this bird is so very obviously outside of its normal range, we were quite hesitant about naming it the lesser goldfinch, but with all our study, we just couldn't come up with anything else. What bothers me, though, is the fact that the breast and face markings aren't just exactly as pictured and described in Peterson's guides. It doesn't show such a yellow face as the one bird had nor does it show any distinct line between the throat and breast. Other than that, everything else fits neatly into place—except we missed it a little on the size, according to the book. This description is just exactly as we noted it before we studied the description as given by Peterson.

I am so very glad that Mr. Asmussen was there at the same time and we could all study the birds at the same time. He has quite an intensive study of ornithol-

ogy in his high school biology course and is very careful in his observations.

We know, of course, that the birds had another roosting place the nights that they did not spend at the Rogers yard, and perhaps they are still around here some place, but until a competent observer notices them, we have no way of locating them again. Mrs. Rogers will call us whenever the birds re-appear in her yard.—**Mr. and Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, 1026 S. Alice St., Sioux City, Iowa.**

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OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER AT OSCEOLA LAKE—Late in the afternoon of August 16, 1964, Lucille, Miss Blanche Battin, and I were at Osceola Lake, some 18 miles northeast of Huron.

Among the several flycatchers observed was one unfamiliar to us. Seen several times in the course of an hour, always near the top of a high, dead limb, it could be studied at leisure with 7x50 binoculars in good light at distances of less than a hundred feet.

The beak and head were relatively heavier and larger than the other flycatchers seen, even the eastern kingbird of which several were also present in the area. The sides of its underparts were dark, being marked with a complex pattern that gave a gray appearance. The throat was very light and its lack of color continued down the front of the bird in a vague band that separated the dark areas on each side. There were no wing-bars.

By now we had decided this must be the Olive-sided Flycatcher and looked for the white spots on the sides of the back. They were not visible while the bird was perched or, for a time, while it was in the air after insects. But later we had a view of its back while

it was in the air and found the spots clearly visible though not so brightly conspicuous as shown in the usual pictures.

Accordingly we believe there can be no doubt that this bird is properly identified as an Olive-sided Flycatcher, presumably on migration.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

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BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER AT OSCEOLA LAKE—October 11, 1964, clear and still after the wind of the day before, showed few visible species of birds in this area. A migrating flock of robins stopped to water, bathe, and stoke up on the hackberries and a lingering of Harris' Sparrows nearly completed the list.

As we ate our lunch at a favorite picnic table, I called a junco flying into the dark brush—with a couple of white spots on each wing. For a few minutes we speculated on the too remote possibility of a White-winged Junco being here and tried to remember the areas of white on that species.

Then I saw a small bird moving about in the same area and went closer to see. Even in a shadow its back had a bluish sheen and I knew we had something unusual. A little closer, while the bird moved into better light, and it was clearly a Black-throated Blue Warbler. Even if it is only the second one I have ever seen, I had no doubt about it.

The bird moved about a group area of small trees for some ten minutes and was clearly seen and identified with certainty by Mrs. Hubert Ketelle, Mary Aberdeen Ketelle, and Lucille Johnson as well as myself. It was identically as pictured in all the books; the male Black-throated Blue Warbler.—**J. W. Johnson, Huron.**

Pileated Woodpecker

--Drawing and Etching

Courtesy E. W. Steffen



BOOK REVIEW

Birds Over America, by Roger Tory Peterson, Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1964. New and Revised edition, 342 pages with index, 105 photographs. \$7.50.

This book was originally published in 1948. The revisions bring it up to date but are otherwise not major.

The photographs, as might be expected, are beautiful and well selected. The text has the charm of language we expect from Peterson and makes the book hard to lay down.

Much of it relates to trips to unusual and interesting places, including pertinent scientific information, in pleas-

ant language. As a whole it is a sort of survey of the fascination of birds and their lore that makes one wonder why the field is not a great deal more crowded than it is with bird watchers.

Titles of the chapters also have their lure, that leads one on and on—but never to disappointment. A few examples: "The Lure of the List;" "Billions of Birds;" "The Sky is their Highway;" "Peregrine of the Blood Royal;" "West of the 100th Meridian;" "The Oldest Bird Colony."

This is a book to read and savor. But, most of all, as a present for any one with the beginnings of an interest in birds, it could open for him a world and a lifetime of pleasant companionship.