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Bulletin

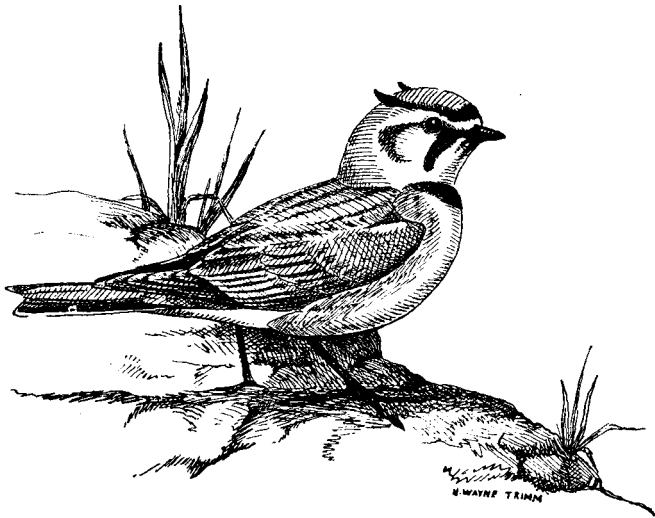
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State Bird Notes

Notes from Halstead

We have never had such a wonderful fall. As if to make up for the scarcity of birds in the yard, we continued having a grand time finding them by boat as late as November 14. We had eleven varieties of rare sparrows, including Fox, Swamp and Field. We brought our species of fall warblers up to 14, having the Black-throated Blue as late as October 11. That was the day we had about three dozen Canada Geese flying over, a late date on Indigo Bunting and the good fortune to see our first Short-billed Marsh Wren. We had seen Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal October 4. On October 5 we had the Long-billed Marsh Wren at Patterson Lake and saw our last Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Purple Finches were seen from the boat at least three times, the last date being November 1. The following day we saw 5 American Pipits, our first for here, on Hasler's Pond a few miles west of Harvey County Park. On November 7 in the Sand Hill area Marie Detweiler and I saw 10 Ring-necked Pheasants toward evening. November 18 in the same area we had a belated Bewick's Wren and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. We had what we thought was an extremely late date for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. We had one at three little scattered clumps of petunia blossoms in our garden November 8, though I did not get to put the binoculars on him.—Edna Ruth, Halstead.

Notes from Lawrence

On November 23 a Catbird was at our bird bath—later in a cedar tree in our yard and still later scratching in some leaves under the tree. This identification is positive as I checked size, color, black cap and russet undertail coverts.

While trying to catch up with a Harlan's Hawk flying straight down a country road we (R. W. Fredrickson, Bert and I) saw a Duck Hawk fly directly in front of the car. We knew a falcon was in the area as we had two previous glimpses of it, but when it flew in front of us at a low level we were certain of its identification.

Mr. Henry Fitch says the Barred Owl has moved over to the west side of the reservation and is fairly often seen and heard from their house. In fact, when Mrs. Fitch lighted some papers in the fireplace a few days ago a commotion was heard up the chimney. Mr. Fitch reached up and pulled out—not Santa Claus—but a Barred Owl,—with scorched tail feathers.—Helen Chewning, Lawrence.

Notes from Mound City

Since I was placed on the inactive list because of illness the latter part of July I have listed 60 species of birds observed from our cabin knoll, just west of Mound City. Probably our biggest thrill was seeing a pair of Golden Eagles soar majestically high in the air from south to north one morning as we gathered apples. The woodpeckers include all of the usual ones, as well as our exclusive pileateds. On September 15 a Red-shafted Flicker showed up in our area. I am hoping he will spend the winter with us.

Out of curiosity I have been checking the fall stay of some of the summer residents. The Dickcissels were the first to desert us, not being found here since the middle of August. Next to disappear were the Indigo Buntings and the Blue Grosbeaks. The Whip-poor-will's call was heard for the last time September 26, and the Chuck-will's-widow's only a few evenings before that. October 3 I saw two swifts over the creek. October 5 there was a cuckoo which understandably acted as though it were cold and the morning of October 10 a phoebe calmly caught insects and wagged its tail near the cabin. Nighthawks were still flying October 11.

Among the few warblers this fall, I was delighted to pick up a "lifer"—a Black-throated Green Warbler in a locust tree just off the hill. The first Slate-colored Junco of the winter checked in along the creek the morning of October 8 and the White-crowned Sparrow reported October 10. Last year we could hear the White-crowned, White-throated, Harris's and Tree Sparrows any day in the late winter, so we are anticipating more winter arrivals daily. With luck and persistence I should add at least 10 more birds to my Cabin List.—Eunice Dingus, Mound City.

General Notes

Grooved-billed Ani in Kansas.—On October 28, 1952, 6¾ miles northeast of Blue Rapids, Marshall County, a male Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, was killed. This species is found normally in Mexico and north to Brownsville, Texas. An earlier specimen of this species was taken in Lyon County on November 1, 1904 and was prepared as a mount for the museum at the Emporia State Teachers' College. The recently collected bird was sent to the University of Kansas and will be preserved in the Museum of Natural History.

Whooping Crane fatally wounded in Kansas.—Another of the dwindling number of Whooping Cranes, *Grus americana*, failed this year to make it back to the wintering grounds in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in southern Texas. Mr. Thane Robinson, a graduate student of the University of Kansas, discovered the injured crane on October 30, 1952, in a pasture 8½ miles south of Sharon in Barber County. The crane was picked up by Dr. John B. Van den Akker director of the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, and taken to Texas. The bird died enroute. The specimen was returned to the University of Kansas. The skin and skeleton are on deposit there in the Museum of Natural History. There was no evidence (on skinning) that the crane had been shot.

Robert P. Allen stated in the Audubon Magazine (March-April, 1950) that 37 whoopers were all that remain alive. On November 1 of this year less than 20 of these white cranes had returned to the wintering grounds.

Pileated Woodpeckers at Miami County State Park.—Two pileated Woodpeckers were observed by Dr. Ray Wackly of Olathe on August 28 in Miami County State Park. The birds were about 60 yards distant and above the tree top level. Mr. Wackly could see them clearly flying across a ribbon of clear sky where the river divides the forest. Miami State Park is located on the left bank of Marias des Cygnes River about four miles east of Fontana, Kansas.

Scoters on Lake Quivira.—Scoters this fall on Lake Quivira (Johnson County) did help to brighten an otherwise dull migration of ducks. Any of the scoters found in fall or winter in Kansas are generally regarded as rare or accidental, since they breed in the far north and winter mainly down the two coasts—seldom occurring this far inland.

Two Surf Scoters turned up on Quivira October 18, 1952. These were in winter plumage and were observed at close range by a number of local birders. A week later, John Bishop found another Surf Scoter on Wyandotte County Lake. Then on November 27 an adult male White-winged Scoter put in a short appearance. Calls to some of the same birders were to no avail, for the bird was gone when looked for again—an hour after it had first been seen on the lake.

To complete the three scoters for Quivira—an American Scoter was observed on the lake two years ago, October 25, 1950. This scoter, it is believed, was the first scoter ever recorded on Quivira.—Margaret and Harold Hedges, Lake Quivira, Kansas City, Kansas.

Nocturnal bird migration study.—Twelve hundred birds were seen during the three full-moon periods this fall by the members of the Baldwin Bird Club. They were participating in the nation-wide nocturnal bird migration count sponsored by George H. Lowery Jr. and Robert J. Newman of Louisiana State University.

Nineteen hours of observation were reported each time, with continuous 8-hour counts on September 2, October 4, and October 31.

The early October full moon was the most productive. The 470 birds recorded then were seen at rate of 25 per hour, as against 23 for September and 16 for early November. The average mean temperature of 47 degrees for the November count was only one less than for October, but the total count was down to 300. The September temperature averaged 73 degrees.

The fastest counting came about eight o'clock on October 1, when 66 birds were seen crossing the moon in a half-hour. Most of these were single flights rather than flocks or V's. The longest period with no bird seen came between 6:45 and 8:45 on November 1, but in the next 15 minutes 37 birds were observed.

A correlation of each night's results with the daily weather maps shows that the highest counts came when the wind was from the north just before the passage of a cold front. On the calmer and warmer nights that followed each front, a few birds were seen going north. Some birds were flying east before the cold front from the Pacific northwest reached Baldwin November 1. The Canadian cold fronts of the other two periods sent most birds straight south.

The hourly counts as recorded at Baldwin do not seem to substantiate the belief that flight densities are small in the early evening, reach their maximum around midnight, and subside rapidly thereafter. But the averages of 25 birds per hour before 11 p. m., of 10 birds from 11 to 1 a. m., and of eight thereafter may be reversed when the results are processed at Louisiana State and actual counts are changed to flight densities that take into consideration the amount of flying space seen through the telescope at the various heights of the moon.

The Baldwin group had planned to do some observing during the December 1 full moon period, but that moon's cold front was too cloudy, snowy and cold. One more nation-wide count is scheduled for the December 28 to January 1 full moon.—Amelia Betts, Baldwin.

Fall Field Day.—On October 26, 1952 the annual K. O. S. Field Day of late fall was held in Baldwin. The Baldwin Bird Club as host served donuts and coffee as the groups assembled at Mulvane Hall on the Baker University Campus at 8:00 a. m. The register carried the names of 62 members and guests.

Besides the weather being ideal, the day had a fine start when the Lawrence group arrived and announced the presence of a Bonaparte's Gull on a small pond 5 miles west of Baldwin. The organized trips for the day were delayed long enough for everyone to observe the rare gull for this part of the country at this time of year. Around 9:00 a. m. the group divided into three parties. One caravan went east to Gardner and Olathe Lakes for shorebirds and waterfowl and back to scout a cedar woods, in vain, for Long-eared Owls. Another unit went west as far as Lone Star Lake. A third band covered the wooded areas and lake in the vicinity of Baldwin.

Following the noon meal in Mulvane Hall, a short business session was held. In the absence of the president, Ivan Boyd presided. The question arose as to the proper procedure for K. O. S. to take in order to accept tracts of land to be established as sanctuaries. The matter will be investigated and brought before the next executive meeting. A list of 78 species was compiled for the day, the most unusual birds being the numerous American Pipits, Golden Plovers and the Bonaparte's Gull.

Those persons participating in the outing were: Madge Hilbish, Burlington; Marno McKaughan, Edgerton; E. J. Ryan, Emporia; Ruth Rose, Edna Ruth, Halstead; Geneva McFarland, Kansas City, Ks.; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harford, Kansas City, Mo.; Syd Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Rollin Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chewning, Bill Doyle, Henry Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fredrickson, Lenore French, Ethel Gwin, Carol Martin, Milton Moore, Mabel Willis, Lawrence; E. K. Beals, Jim Beals, Philip Marvin, Manhattan; Ray Wackley, Olathe; Mr. and Mrs. Dean Cole, Ben King, Shawnee; T. J. Hatrel, S. J., St. Marys; L. B. Carson, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Huxman, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Kingman, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Martin, Clyde Morris, T. W. Nelson, Orville Rice, Topeka; Amelia Betts, Mrs. Geo. Boicourt, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Boyd, Arthur Bridwell, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Evans, Mrs. C. Gates, Katharine Kelley, Mrs. G. Marquardt, R. F. Miller, Grace Preston, Baldwin.

Group picture taken at the fall meeting may be obtained for 50c from T. A. Evans, Baldwin