

Dickens, Clay County. This specimen, collected by the writer, proved to be a female. The stomach contained the legs, feet, and feathers of a Lapland Longspur. There are at least three other preserved Iowa specimens of the Prairie Falcon.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

The Golden Plover in Indiana.—On May 6, 1934, while driving about twelve miles southeast of this city, we came across a flock of over forty American Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*) which brought a thrill to me as it did on May 4, 1929, when we encountered a flock of about fifty of these birds twenty-six miles north of here. These are the only ones I ever saw. The birds seen May 6, 1934, were in a clay plowed field, where their gold and black mottled backs blended in with the newly plowed soil, when they were at rest. I had stopped to look for birds along a small stream which flowed through the field, when the plovers were startled and rose in a body, flying in close formation, swinging high and then low, piping their pleasing notes as they went. They circled and came back, then were away again, doing this for three times, when they alighted again in a hollow. We stayed on to get a better view of them, for at first we could not tell whether they were the Golden or the Black-bellied species. After they settled in the hollow and did not move about, depending upon their color to protect them, I crept through the fence and went as close as they would allow, to get a better view. They sat still for some time, then as I approached stood at attention, seeming to depend upon one leader to tell them when it was time to go. I had a fine look at them in their beautiful spring plumage of jet black below and mottled gold and black above, with a white "question mark" on either side of the head running down the sides. The face was black, as was the throat joining the black underparts. But a few of the birds were not so marked. The backs were as the others, but they had no black about the face, neck or breast, although the belly was blackish, which made me think they were not yet in full breeding plumage. The markings about the face were gray and white instead of black and white as in the most of them. I noticed as the birds waited in the field a few would venture about slyly and seemingly not intending to attract attention. As they sat on the ground they faced me and I could hardly get a good view of their backs. Some of the birds bobbed their heads occasionally as I watched them. I approached to within 100 or 150 feet before they suddenly arose and disappeared over the brow of the hill. The plovers were near a little traveled side road.—MRS. HORACE P. COOK, *Anderson, Ind.*

Notes on Some Winter Birds of Southwestern Ohio.—Following are the records of the winter occurrences of fifteen species of birds in southwestern Ohio that seem worthy of publication. These have been obtained by field work done in the Cincinnati region during the last five years. Several of the records have appeared before (*Proceedings of the Junior Society of Natural Sciences, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1930-32*), in part, but for completeness it is deemed desirable to list all of them below:

Old Squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*). Mr. Cleveland P. Grant showed me a single female bird feeding just above the mouth of the Big Miami River in Hamilton County, Ohio, on December 31, 1933. I collected the duck, with his aid, and have deposited it in the Ohio State Museum. This is the only Old Squaw record that I know of for Hamilton County.

Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*). Most Killdeers depart from southwestern Ohio by December 15 and do not return until late February. However, the species

was present in Hamilton or Clermont Counties every month of 1932 and in every month of later years except January.

Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*). At least fifteen of these birds were observed during the winter of 1932-33 in Union Township of Clermont County. The first was a dead bird found accidentally on December 14, 1932, by kicking it from a snow-drift where it had fallen. One or more of the owls were seen each week-end until February 7, 1933, by W. Goodpaster, C. P. Grant, R. F. Drury, W. Gessing, and the writer. Allowing for duplications and the birds collected by Mr. Goodpaster and myself for the Ohio State Museum and the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, at least fifteen different individuals were seen. The birds, with a single exception, were perched in small red cedars. The owls were all quite tame, permitting one to approach to within five or six feet. One individual found asleep in a dense tangle of wild grape vines, was captured and held captive for four months, being fed on dead specimens of small birds, small mammals, amphibia, and insects. The vertebrate food ranged in size from swamp tree frogs (*Pseudacris triseriata*) to adult chip-munks (*Tamias striatus fisheri*). The pellets cast up averaged about two for each item of food consumed. The wings and feet, and occasionally the heads of birds, were not eaten. Though it devoured insects, amphibia, and seven species of mammals, such birds as Cow-birds, Redwings, and Starlings were untouched. It did, however, relish all other birds offered, especially the sparrows.

Prairie Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris dissaepus*).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Both of these species were noted November 15, 1930, at a gravel pit near Newton, Hamilton County, Ohio. Two of the Prairie Marsh Wrens were in a small cattail marsh while a single Brown Thrasher haunted a heavy growth of willows. In both cases the birds were discovered by "squeaking". This date is a full month later than other county records for either species.

Eastern Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata faxoni*). I have but a single winter record for the region, a female collected December 26, 1932, in Union Township, Clermont County, for the Cincinnati Society of Natural History collection. This bird winters regularly farther east in the hill counties of the state.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). About a dozen of these birds passed the winter of 1931-32 in a small grove of red cedars one-half mile west of Gleneste, Clermont County. The following winter only five individuals were located, and, despite intensive search, not a single bird was seen during the past two winters.

Western Palm Warbler (*Dendroica p. palmarum*). On December 26, 1933, Mr. Woodrow Goodpaster picked up an exhausted warbler from the Japanese barberry bushes growing before the Gleneste Garage at Gleneste, Clermont County. The bird died the following day, and, having been brought to me, was made into a skin for the Ohio State Museum. Mr. Charles F. Walker and Mr. Edward S. Thomas of that institution identified the bird (skin No. 6628) as a Western Palm Warbler. This, I believe, constitutes the first winter record of the species for Ohio confirmed by a specimen, though there are two published sight records (Ohio State Museum Science Bulletin, I, No. 1, p. 27, 1928). The 1931 edition of the A. O. U. Check-List includes Ohio in the winter range of the Yellow Palm Warbler (*Dendroica p. hypochrysea*) but does not record the western form as wintering in the state.

Common Redpoll (*Acanthis l. linaria*). A single individual was found feeding on weed tops with a company of Eastern Goldfinches (*Spinus t. tristis*) at a

gravel pit near Newton, Hamilton County, on February 14, 1931.

Eastern Field Sparrow (*Spizella p. pusilla*). Winters rarely. A female bird was collected December 5, 1931, in Union Township of Clermont County and another of the species was observed December 18, 1933, in Avondale of Cincinnati.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes g. gramineus*).

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia l. leucophrys*).

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

Eastern Fox Sparrow (*Passerella i. iliaca*). All four of these sparrows were to be found in numbers during the exceptionally mild winter of 1931-32 in Hamilton, Warren, and Clermont Counties. The following winter the sparrows were far fewer in numbers and the Vesper Sparrows were absent, though the observations included only Clermont and Hamilton Counties. During both winters notes for Union Township of Clermont County indicated an approximate ratio of one White-crowned Sparrow and two White-throated Sparrows for each Fox Sparrow seen. None of the four sparrows were detected during the winters of 1933-34 and 1934-35.

Eastern Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). On March 26, 1930, twelve of these birds were observed feeding about a small bare spot of a weedy hillside in Avondale of Cincinnati. The birds were very tame and permitted me to approach to within thirty feet before taking flight.—KARL H. MASLOWSKI, *Cincinnati, Ohio*.

The Present Status of the Olive-sided Flycatcher as a Breeding Bird in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.—Any studies dealing with the distribution of bird life in more or less limited areas reveal changes that are as puzzling as, apparently, they are inevitable. Even relatively common species disappear without any obvious reason, while on the other hand new species will appear and gradually become a characteristic feature of the indigenous fauna. In the case of the Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis mesoleucus*) a species is represented that at one time occurred during the summer months in the mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee wherever conditions were favorable, but now is extremely scarce and rarely observed in this region. It is possible that it was never common at this extreme southern limit of its breeding range, but until recent years it was frequently noted by field ornithologists, and recorded at such widely separated spots in western North Carolina as Highlands and Roan Mountain. During a period of almost five years of intensive field work in these mountains, from January, 1930, through September, 1934, this species was looked for on every possible occasion, but seemingly it had disappeared from its former haunts, and at only one spot was one pair of these birds found. On July 10, 1932, while in the Great Smoky Mountains, the loud vigorous notes of one of these birds were heard, and a short search soon revealed it perched in the very top of a tall dead spruce at the edge of a clearing near the top of a ridge. This was within a quarter of a mile of Newfound Gap, on the Tennessee side of the line, and at an altitude of approximately 5,000 feet. Lack of time prevented any serious effort to find the nest, but judging from the action of the bird there could be little question but that it was breeding here, a fact verified the following year when a pair of these birds was found at this same spot in late June. So conspicuous a species as this one cannot easily be overlooked, so it is doubtful if many of these birds now occur in this region during the summer months, and their ultimate fate should be watched with interest.—THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*