

day is not far distant when farmers, gardeners, and horticulturists will have a myriad more of night-flying bugs, moths, and millers (and their larvae) to contend with, unless we can manage to save some suitable nesting sites for this most valuable bird.

SIGOURNEY, IOWA.

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### NOTES ON THE SHORE BIRDS OF CENTRAL IOWA

BY W. M. ROSEN

Boone County, located almost in the center of Iowa, was formerly dotted with hundreds of ponds and sloughs; and in 1870, when my father first came here, this was the home of thousands of water fowl and shore birds. We of the second generation are not allowed to witness scenes such as they saw in those early days. However, this spring (1925) it was my great privilege to observe what to me was the best migration of shore birds and water birds that I have seen here. Our ponds have almost all been drained, and where formerly was the home of the Blue-Winged Teal, Bitterns, rails and Yellow-headed Blackbirds among the cattail rushes, now wave the vast fields of Iowa corn. However, there still remain a very few small shallow ponds in meadows here and there and it was in these that I made the acquaintance of some of our beautiful and dainty shore birds during migration this spring.

The first Lesser Yellowlegs appeared on April 19; the Bartramian Sandpipers on April 24, and the Greater Yellowlegs on April 26. The Spotted Sandpipers were noted first on May 2, as were also the Green Heron and the Sora Rail. The Wilson Snipe was on hand on the 28th of March which was about the time that the ducks were stopping to feed in our ponds on their way northward. The long drouth in the month of May caused the water in our shallow ponds to recede and this left the large mud flats on which the shore birds found a great amount of food and then it was that I found a sight that I had longed to see, a good collection of shore birds to study at close range.

On the morning of May 3 we found in the center of a small pond, which was but a few inches deep, a large Canada Goose which stood like a giant surrounded by nineteen Lesser Yellowlegs and two Greater Yellowlegs. The same morning in another pond we found our first Pectoral Sandpipers.

On May 10, just a week later, we found in one small pond the following: eight Least Sandpipers, one Semipalmated Sandpiper, one Pectoral Sandpiper and one Lesser Yellowleg. These were all ob-

served at close range and a positive count made of them and their markings observed. The small sandpipers seemed to be fearless, as we could approach to within fifteen feet of them before they would fly. On this same morning we found our first Wilson Phalaropes in another pond and with them was one Northern Phalarope. These beautiful birds gave us a nice example of their favorite pastime of "pivoting" or whirling around and around while standing in one spot in the water and giving their peculiar little grunting sound. There was but one Northern Phalarope with the group.

On May 13 we were thrilled by the sight of our first Semipalmated Plover, which is quite a rare bird here, as was the Virginia Rail which we also observed that same morning. On the 17th the first Red-backed Sandpiper appeared at the same time as the Least Bittern and meanwhile the others were here in their usual numbers and it remained for the grand finale to be put on for us on the following Sunday, May 24. In one small pond by actual count there were forty-four shore birds and among them was just one Red-backed Sandpiper; and when the Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers would rise and fly over the pond wheeling with the wind turning up their pure white underparts it made a very pretty sight and this lone red-back would accompany them and his black belly was quite noticeable clear across the pond. The sight of the year was in store for us in the larger pond about a mile away, for when we alighted from our car and walked toward the pond we found that it was fairly covered with shore birds feeding industriously. By actual count I made over two hundred and then there was a large section that I could not count so that I can safely say there were 250 of them in all. There were scores of Least Sandpipers, dozens of Semipalmated Sandpipers, a few Pectoral Sandpipers, and one lone Stilt Sandpiper; while along the shore nimbly ran the Spotted Sandpipers, and with them three dainty Semipalmated Plovers. As we were seated on the ground with our glasses glued on this beautiful sight there appeared right before us on the shore a beautiful specimen of the Le Conte Sparrow, just as if he had been sent to complete the picture.

We watched this beautiful sight, the like of which I had never seen here before, admiring the beautiful Wilson Phalaropes which were also in this great flock. All seemed to be busy feeding, and happy; while over head flew the Barn Swallow with its sweet twitter, and the noisy Redwing with its "clonk-a-lee", and from the rushes in a distant pond came the song of the Long-billed Marsh Wren. From the upland pasture behind came the beautiful whistling call of the Bartramian

Sandpiper which remained and nested with us this summer. The Black Terns circled overhead. By a careful count over the entire pond I found eight Red-backed Sandpipers there at one time.

We remained for an hour or more watching this great flock of birds at work feeding, and marveled at the sight which became so fixed in my mind that I will never forget it; when I am older I can tell the younger generation of the beautiful shore birds observed in the spring of 1925 in one of the last remaining ponds of the prairies of Iowa.

OGDEN, IOWA.

### SUMMER BIRDS AT HURON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN

BY BAYARD H. CHRISTY

The ensuing list of birds is the result of a visit to the Huron Mountain Club, Marquette County, in the northern peninsula of Michigan, from May 24 to June 17, 1925. The area traversed lies within a radius of ten miles from the mouth of Pine River, which empties into Lake Superior about forty-five miles west of Marquette; it lies between the Salmon Trout River on the east and the Little Huron River on the west; it includes the Huron Islands, two miles off-shore; and extends southward, as has been said, about ten miles. The region is rugged, with broken granitic mountains whose summits rise about nine hundred feet above the lake surface, and is well forested, with both conifers and hardwoods. Headlands of red sandstone stand out in the lake, with beaches of coarse sand in the bays between. A dozen lakes varying in length from three miles and a half to a hundred yards afford further diversity. Some of these lie in littoral sand plains, some beneath granite crags; some are deep, some shallow and choked with sphagnum bogs. Clear, cold streams lead from lake to lake and to Lake Superior. The area is largely the preserve of the Club named above.

The list is essentially one of the summer birds, but it includes also a considerable number of transients; for at the beginning of the period the tide of migration was still at flood. The transients, however, are, with few exceptions, easily distinguishable, as will be apparent on reading the notes. The list could not, under the circumstances, be all-inclusive; but it may be found useful for reference, and may perhaps serve as a beginning in the preparation of a complete check-list for the locality.

[The following list contains 122 named forms.—Ed.]

Loon—*Gavia immer*. A pair was noted on each of the inland lakes, and other pairs were seen at intervals along the shore of Lake