

Additions to a list of the Birds of Harding County, Northwestern South Dakota, II.— In 'The Auk' for January, 1911, pages 5-16, I gave a partial list of the birds of this county. In 'The Auk' for January, 1912, page 110-111, was a first list (10 species) of additions. During the summer of 1912 I revisited in August and September, practically all parts of the county under the auspices of the South Dakota State Survey and collected a number of birds. Species added to the list at this time are marked by an asterisk.

Ardea herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON.— Though reported by Grinnell and by Catron, I met with no individuals during 1910 or 1911. In 1912, however, several were seen along the Little Missouri River early in September.

Dryobates pubescens homorus. BATCHELDER'S WOODPECKER.— A specimen collected September 4, was identified by Oberholser as belonging to the Rocky Mountain subspecies. In my list the Downy Woodpeckers were reported as *D. p. medianus*.

***Porzana carolina.** SORA.— One individual was seen September 7, in a small reed-filled slump-marsh in the East Short Pines.

Ammodramus bairdi. BAIRD'S SPARROW.— This was an abundant species early in September. Specimens collected at that time as well as the breeding male shot July 14, 1912, have been identified by Oberholser.

Melospiza melodia juddi. DAKOTA SONG SPARROW.— A breeding Song Sparrow collected by me in the sand hills of southern South Dakota (Bennet County) has been referred by Oberholser to this subspecies. Cooke writes as though all the Song Sparrows of western South Dakota must therefore belong to *M. m. juddi* (instead of *M. m. melodia* as I reported in my list.)

***Melospiza lincolni lincolni.** LINCOLN'S SPARROW.— One collected September 7, in the East Short Pine Hills (identified by Biological Survey.)

Representatives of various other species were collected and specimens of a number were submitted to the Biological Survey, but since they merely substantiate earlier field identifications, and require no corrections it is not thought necessary to mention them.—S. S. VISHNER, *University of South Dakota, Vermilion, S. Dak.*

Birds at Sea.— On December 8, 1912, a live female Eider Duck (*Somateria dresseri*) was brought to me. It had been captured on the deck of the steamship 'Juniata,' off Cape Cod, Mass., December 5, having come aboard in a dense fog. It lived for ten days on celery tops — all other food refused — at the end of which time it died, and is now in my collection.

On about October 16, 1911, two young Duck Hawks were captured on a tramp steamer coming to this port for bunker coal. The mate informed me they were about one hundred miles off Hatteras when the birds were taken. An Osprey also came aboard the same day, and all were easily captured as they were utterly exhausted. There had been a bad storm the day previous. These birds were examined by both my father and me

and pronounced young of the year. We were unable to purchase them from the sailors.— HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Newport News, Va.*

Two Ornithological Fables from Louisiana.— While in Avoyelles Parish, La., recently, the writer heard two interesting bird stories. One concerns the Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*). A man told me: "I have heard from my father, and my grandfather, and have heard all my life, that a flock of these birds will alight in shallow water and set to scratching their heads. After all have been doing this a short time, the fish in the place rise and float on the surface stupefied, thus falling an easy prey to the birds."

Although this tale is a great tax upon credulity the writer gave it the benefit of the doubt to the extent of testing the fundamental assertion scientifically. Some minnows were kept in a small aquarium with a good quantity of scaly scurf from the head and neck of a Wood Ibis. The minnows showed no signs of discomfort (during 24 hours) and in fact ate some of the scales. A friend has suggested that if there is anything at all in the story, the probability is that scales being scratched off might attract small fishes in search of food.

The other fable, admittedly a morality tale,¹ I have put in the following form: It is related that one day of the days a dove espied an ant struggling in the water. Moved to compassion, the dove plucked a leaf and laid it on the water near to the ant. The ant climbing thereon was saved from drowning and a favorable breeze springing up, was wafted to shore and his hold on life made sure. At a later time, the dove sitting quietly on a branch of a tree, was drowsily enjoying the beauty of the day. A wicked boy, gun in hand, stealthily approached, and having taken deliberate aim was about to fire. In this extremity the ant, witnessing the turn of events, quickly climbed to the boy's neck and, ere he could pull trigger bit him shrewdly on the ear. The lad disconcerted by the sharp pain, let fall his gun, and with an exclamation, roughly brushed his hurt. All this hubbub aroused the dove who made off in safety.

Moral: Befriend, and you may be befriended.— W. L. MCATEE, *Washington, D. C.*

¹ This evidently old story appears in a different guise in the 'Marvels of Ant Life.' W. F. Kirby, 1898.