

In both Table I and Table II the species are ranked by taking an average of (1) their ranking in "number of times seen"; (2) their ranking in "largest number seen in one day" and (3) their ranking in "total number seen on all trips." This method was also used in 1928.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

**The Fall Migration of Water Birds and Others at Reading, Pa.—**

As a rule the changes that are constantly taking place in the neighborhood of cities are inimical to bird-life. It is rare indeed that a single "improvement" such as the building of a dam has such a marked influence on the bird life of a region as to add six new species to the known local avifauna in the course of a single year, as has been the case of the "Maidencreek Dam," near Reading, Pa., opened last spring and commented upon in the July 'Auk.' Many species that were previously regarded as casuals promptly accepted the new conditions and have occurred in numbers exceeding my total experience in this region during the past 14 years.

The promise of the first spring has been fully realized in the first fall migration on and about this lake.

As reported previously, a colony of Savannah Sparrows nested on its shores, and several families of Bobolinks and Upland Plovers raised their families within a few yards of the water-front. Black Ducks were seen in some numbers all through the summer, and a flock of 4 American Egrets put in an appearance on June 23. Seven Little Blue Herons arrived on July 6, and from that time until September 15 both species were present, the Egrets remaining until October 3, as many as 7 of the latter and 20 of the former being present at times.

A short-eared Owl was flushed from the water's edge on July 27.

The fall shore-bird flight started on July 14 with a pair of Semipalmated Sandpipers, followed on the 23rd by three Solitary, three Least, one Pectoral and some Semipalmated Sandpipers.

A flock of twelve Lesser Yellow-legs appeared on July 31 and had increased to 45 by August 3 when 50 Pectoral Sandpipers, hitherto rather rare here, were also seen. With these came the first of the Wilson's Snipe.

On August 9 the first Pintail arrived, and on August 11 the first Mallard, a flock of nine Blue-winged Teal and a Bittern. A thunder shower on the 14th brought a veritable windfall of birds, two Black Terns, 21 Blue-winged Teals, 80 Lesser Yellow-legs, 80 Pectoral Sandpipers, and the first migrant Soras.

On August 18 a Black-bellied Plover and Semipalmated Plover were seen, most of the previously mentioned shore-birds remaining, and on August 27 the first fall Pied-billed Grebe was noted.

There was little change in the bird life until September 8 when a Dowitcher was seen with the Lesser Yellow-legs, and three Black-bellied Plovers arrived.

On the 14th two Black Terns and a Northern Phalarope were there, and on the following day, after a long shower, two Coots, two Green-winged Teal and a Bald Eagle were among those present.

September 19 brought the first Duck Hawk and on the 28th a Florida Gallinule appeared at the head of the lake, remaining nearby until October 1.

A northeaster on September 30 brought a Ring-billed Gull, three Red-backed Sandpipers and a Golden Plover, and two more days of rain launched the largest flight of the season, when on October 3, 30 Pied-billed Grebes, three Black Ducks, two Pintails, one Blue-winged Teal, 25 Baldpates, four Shovellers, a Redhead and a Ruddy Duck, a Bonaparte's Gull, a Ring-billed Gull, a Common Tern, a Least Bittern, 60 Semipalmated Sandpipers, three Least Sandpipers, 50 Red-backed Sandpipers, 30 White-rumped Sandpipers, five Greater Yellow-legs, six Black-bellied Plovers, five Semipalmated Plovers were among the more notable species present. In a sense parasitic on these were a Duck Hawk and a Pigeon Hawk. The latter was seen in the act of plucking a "peep" out of one of the flocks.

October 12 brought a pair of Golden Plovers to the same mud-lump that had been visited by that of October 1, and the 23rd found three in the same spot. By the latter date the Sandpipers had largely disappeared, a couple of Snipe and Pectoral Sandpipers and one Lesser Yellow-legs alone remaining in the marshes at the head of the reservoir.

October 27 brought the next prize in the form of a flock of 10 Gadwalls. To record this rare bird, entirely new to the county list, twice in one year was indeed more than one could reasonably hope for, yet two of this flock remained until November 3, and one was seen on the 28th. On all occasions they were seen under favorable conditions with Zeiss 8x glasses, both at rest and in flight.

A steady rain on the night preceding November 3 brought another wind-fall of water birds, a Loon, three Horned Grebes, nine Red-breasted Mergansers, six Green-winged Teal, four Canvasbacks, 50 Old Squaws, 10 Ruddies, four Redheads and four White-winged Scoters being on the dam that morning with a goodly number of Black Ducks, some Baldpates and the previously mentioned Gadwalls.

A belated Red-backed Sandpiper was also seen.

Another rain on November 15 brought two Ring-necked Ducks, three Lesser Scaups, and one Goldeneye, and the 17th brought the first Buffleheads.

Such species as the Black Duck, Pintail, Baldpate, Bufflehead, Scaup and Green-winged Teal remained until the first cold wave on November 30 when the dam froze over; a Bonaparte's Gull hovering over a small unfrozen pool on that day being the last of the birds to desert the dam.—  
EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pa.*

**Notes on Speed of Flight of Certain Water Birds.**—From Ponce de Leon Inlet (formerly Mosquito Inlet), on the east coast of Florida, there extends to the north and to the south what is generally considered to be the finest beach in the world. Here the world's record for speed in an automobile was made by the late Major H. O. D. Segrave, when he drove his "Golden Arrow" over a measured mile at 231 miles per hour. This long