

ling the little bird returned to the nest so promptly that the first few times the camera could not be adjusted and ready for him until he was seated again. We were unable to get the pictures we wished until we arranged it so that one of us got the camera ready while the other evicted the bird.

I made many trips to the nest after this, watching for the time that the eggs should hatch. I was planning to leave the vicinity for the summer soon, and hoped for studies and pictures of the feeding of the young before I went. The period of incubation proved so long that I began to fear that something had happened to prevent the eggs from hatching. On June 13 the nest still contained eggs. On this date the nest was visited by several members of the New Haven Bird Club, and all of them experienced the novel sensation of allowing the sitting bird to peck their fingers. It was on this occasion that I obtained a photograph of this act, one of the ladies allowing her hand to be photographed as the bird pecked at her fingers.

Early on the next morning, June 14, I found that the eggs had finally hatched. It was too late for me to get the studies of the feeding I had desired, but just in time for a note on the period of incubation. Assuming that the last egg was laid on May 30, which was most probable, the period of incubation was fifteen days. This is a decidedly long period for so small a bird, and longer than that of any other bird of its size with which I am acquainted.

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## A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF CLAY COUNTY, SOUTHEASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY S. S. VISHER, PH.D.

The location of Clay County on the Missouri River and crossed by the Vermilion River makes it a favorable area for the study of birds, there probably being a greater variety in this than in adjacent counties, while because the university is located here, more bird students have made extended ob-

servations within this than in any other South Dakota county. The first to carry on bird studies in this area was F. V. Hayden, the eminent geologist, who collected many birds "near the mouth of the Vermilion River" in May and June, 1854 and 1855. His records are included in Elliot Coues' classic "Birds of the Northwest" (Washington, 1872). C. S. Agersborg, in "The Auk" for 1885 gives a list of the birds of Southeastern Dakota. Of the 215 species included, most were observed in the vicinity of Vermilion, in or near which city Mr. Agersborg had lived for several years. During the past ten years, three students of the University of South Dakota have made some study of the birds. Benjamin Rowley and E. H. Sweet deserve special mention. Sheridan Jones also collected and mounted some specimens for the University Museum, but left no other record of his work.

The following list has been compiled in part from data furnished me by Rowley and Sweet, from Agersborg's article, and Hayden's records, but it is chiefly the result of my observations in the area since 1908, especially 1910-13, while a member of the faculty of the University. With the help of a motorcycle, the more favored localities could be visited frequently, and much more effective work was possible than in the case of less fortunate observers. Careful records of the migration, abundance, and nesting of the birds seen were made for the U. S. Biological Survey, and numerous specimens were collected for the University Museum.

Clay County can be divided into five districts: (1) The Missouri bottom land; (2) The valley of the Vermilion River; (3) The bluffs along these valleys, the ravines of which are especially distinctive; (4) The nearly level upland or "prairie"; (5) The rough land of the northeastern corner of the county.

Most of the area is under cultivation. The chief exceptions are sand areas in the Missouri bottom, flooded areas (now however extensively drained by the recently completed "big ditch") in the Vermilion valley and the rough land along the bluffs. There are few small ponds on the upland level;

the one most frequently visited was "Rose Lake," situated some nine miles northeast of Vermilion.

The trees of the area are: (1) numerous planted groves of cottonwood, ash, elm, box-elder, plum, and maple; (2) native groves of the same species (except the maple) on the bottoms; (3) woods in the ravines where bur-oak, basswood, hackberry, and coffee-tree supplement the species just mentioned.

The more abundant birds nesting in the treeless portion of the upland are the Western Meadowlark, Marsh Hawk, Sennett's Nighthawk, Bobolink, Cowbird, Western Grasshopper Sparrow and Dickcissel.

The birds most frequently found nesting in upland groves are the Western Mourning Dove, Sparrow Hawk, Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, Crow, Bronzed Grackle, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-rumped Shrike, Yellow Warbler, Catbird, Western House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Robin.

In addition to those found in upland groves, the following nest commonly in the groves along the rivers: Western Red-tailed Hawk, Screech Owl, Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Towhee and Cardinal. The more conspicuous birds of the city of Vermilion are the Bronzed Grackles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Robin, Blue Jay, Chimney Swift, Western House Wren, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Baltimore Oriole, Warbling Vireo, Wood Thrush, Wood Pewee and Purple Martin.

In the more densely wooded ravines, Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, Screech Owls, Oven-birds, Wood Pewee and Indigo Bunting nest, while many migrants, especially warblers, stop here.

The water birds observed nowadays in this area are chiefly migrants, though many species formerly nested here. Among the water birds most frequently seen in summer may be mentioned: Pied-billed Grebe, Franklin Gull, Black Tern, Least

Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Pintail, American and Least Bittern, Sora Rail, Coot, Killdeer, Yellowhead and Thick-billed Redwing Blackbirds. Kingfishers and Green Heron nest frequently along the rivers.

#### LIST OF SPECIES.

Horned Grebe (*Columbus auritus*).—A rare migrant.

Eared Grebe (*Columbus nigricollis californicus*).—A rare summer resident. Common in migrations.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*).—Breeds commonly.

Loon (*Gavia immer*).—A rare migrant. There is a mounted specimen, secured in the county, in the University museum.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).—A rare migrant.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*).—A small number of these gulls are seen each spring and fall.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini*).—Abundant during late spring and early fall. Also seen occasionally in summer.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*).—Occasionally common during migrations.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*).—This interesting bird has nested regularly for many years along the Vermilion River, near the town of Vermilion, and also at the mouth of the stream, a few miles away. Nests have been found on several occasions. The colonies are small, consisting of not more than seven or eight pairs.

Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*).—A common migrant and locally an abundant nester.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*).—A tolerably common migrant. Agersborg states that they formerly bred here.

White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*).—A frequent migrant, passing in large flocks during April and late September and October.

Merganser (*Mergus americanus*).—A rare migrant.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*).—A rare migrant.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).—An irregular visitor. Sometimes probably breeds.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—A very abundant migrant, and a rare breeder. Remains until late in December, or even well on into January, if portions of the Missouri River continue open.

Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*).—A rare migrant; seen as late as early June.

Gadwal (*Chaulelasmus streperus*).—A common migrant.

Baldpate (*Marca americana*).—Abundant during migrations and tolerably common in summer.

Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinensis*).—Abundant migrant.

Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*).—An abundant migrant and frequent summer resident. By far the most abundant duck during the summer. Breeds on ponds and on bayous of the river. Arrives late in April and leaves in October.

Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*).—A very rare migrant.

Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*).—An abundant migrant. Arrives about April 1, but not conspicuously abundant until the middle of that month. Breeds regularly.

Pintail (*Dafila acuta*).—The Pintail, or "spike-tail," is the earliest duck. Until late in March it is the predominant species. It breeds here occasionally.

Hutchin's Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsi*).—A very common migrant.

Brant (*Branta bernicla glaucogastra*).—Occasional migrant.

Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*).—An occasional migrant. A "winged" bird was kept in captivity for several weeks in 1911 before it died.

Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).—An abundant breeder.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*).—Occasionally a tolerably common breeder.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias*).—A common migrant and a rare breeder.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens*).—Nests fairly plentiful in summer along the rivers.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*).—One or two heronies are within reach of this area for these birds are met with on Rose Lake frequently.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*).—A rare migrant

Sandhill Crane (*Grus mexicana*).—A tolerably common migrant.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).—A rare summer resident.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*).—Abundant migrant and common breeder.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*).—An abundant breeder.

Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*).—An accidental visitor. One was taken by E. H. Sweet a short distance east of Vermillion about April 15, 1899.

Coot (*Fulica americana*).—An exceedingly abundant breeder.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*).—A few wood ducks have been shot here during the past few years. Formerly they were common and nested.

Redhead (*Marila americana*).—An abundant migrant and a rare breeder.

Canvas-back (*Marila callisneria*).—Occasionally a common migrant.

Scaup Duck (*Marila marila*).—A rare migrant.

Lesser Scaup Duck (*Marila affinis*).—An abundant migrant. Some remain well into June and may breed occasionally.

Ring-necked Duck (*Marila collaris*).—Somewhat rare as a migrant.

Golden-eye (*Clangula clangula americana*).—A rare migrant.

Buffle-head (*Charitonnetta albeola*).—An abundant migrant.

Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis*).—An uncommon visitant; occasionally breeds.

Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*).—An abundant migrant.

Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*).—An occasional migrant. Several were seen early in April, 1911, and one was taken for the museum.

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons gambeli*).—A fairly abundant migrant; seen as late as early in June during the past two seasons.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis canadensis*).—An abundant migrant. Reported by Agersborg as formerly a rare breeder. Remained about the air holes in the Missouri River until January during the past winter.

Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*).—Rare migrant. A specimen taken by Sweet is in the museum.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*).—An abundant migrant and rare breeder.

Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*).—Reported by Agersborg and Sweet as a rare migrant.

Woodcock (*Philohela minor*).—Reported by Agersborg as a very rare breeder and by Sweet as a rare migrant. There is a specimen, secured in South Dakota, mounted in the museum.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*).—An abundant migrant.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaccus*).—A very common migrant.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*).—A rare migrant.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia maculata*).—A very common migrant.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscicollis*).—A common migrant.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*).—A tolerably common migrant.

Least Sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*).—A common migrant.

Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*).—A tolerably common migrant. A male in full summer plumage seen May 19, 1912.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*).—A fairly common migrant.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*).—A rare visitor; formerly common.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*).—A rare but regular migrant.

Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*).—A common migrant.

Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*).—A very common migrant.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Helodromas solitarius solitarius*).—A fairly common migrant. Absent in summer, only a short time in June.

Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*).—A common migrant.

Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*).—Tolerably frequent in summer.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*).—"An abundant spring migrant," Agersborg. Seen only a few times.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*).—A fairly common migrant.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*).—Reported by Agersborg as formerly a rare breeder. At present a very rare migrant.

Black-bellied Plover (*Squatavola squatarola*).—Occasionally a common migrant.

Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*).—A rare spring migrant.

Killdeer (*Oryzochus vociferus*).—A very abundant summer resident; arriving before the middle of March and departing in November.

Semipalmated Plover (*Aegialitis semipalmata*).—A very common migrant.

Piping Plover (*Aegialitis meloda*).—A tolerably frequent migrant.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*).—A small flock was seen on Rose Lake in May, 1912, and in May, 1913.

Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*).—A fairly common resident.

Prairie Chicken (*Typanuchus americanus americanus*).—An abundant winter visitant and rare nester.

Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pediocetes phasianellus campestris*).—Irregular; abundant during some winters, while during others it is absent.

Wild Turkey (*Melagris gallopavo silvestris*).

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*).—Both of these game birds were reported by Agersborg to be rare breeders here in the seventies.

Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*).—An abundant summer resident. Sometimes remains until December.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*).—Seldom seen; however it has been known to breed here.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*).—Accidental in summer. One collected near Vermilion, mounted by Rowley, now in the museum. Reported by Agersborg as an occasional visitor.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*).—Abundant from early in March till the coming of winter. Seen occasionally in winter.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*).—A tolerably common migrant and rare breeder; nest found.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*).—Rare, summer resident; nests found.

Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*).—Rare, in migrations and winter.

Western Red-tail (*Buteo borealis calurus*).—A common resident.

Krider's Hawk (*Buteo borealis krideri*).—A common migrant.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).—Breeds abundantly. Arrives early in April and departs in October.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus lineatus*).—A tolerably common migrant.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*).—A regular but uncommon migrant.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*).—Common in winter.

Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Archibuteo ferrugineus*).—Common in migrations and winter.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).—Occasional except in the summer.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*).—Very rare winter visitor.

Gray Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus rusticolus*).—A rare winter visitor. Agersborg collected one in 1880. I saw one in 1910.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*).—Occasional except in mid-summer.

Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*).—Occasional migrant.

Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius columbarius*).—Tolerably common migrant.

Richardson's Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius richardsoni*).—A fairly common migrant. The type locality is Vermilion.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius sparverius*).—Breeds abundantly.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*).—A rare migrant.

Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*).—Occasionally met with. Two specimens are in the museum, the last one having been taken November 26, 1912.



Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*).—An abundant migrant and occasional summer resident.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).—Abundant except in winter, when it is rare.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia varia*).—Fairly frequent in winter. One pair nested in a wooded ravine, a short distance east of Vermillion, during the summer of 1912.

Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*).—The most abundant owl; resident.

Western Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus pallescens*).—Common in winter.

Arctic Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus subarcticus*).—Two captures recorded by Agersborg.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*).—Perhaps an occasional resident.

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*).—Irregularly common in winter.

Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea*).—An abundant summer resident. Most of these owls nest in deserted badger holes as prairie dogs are not found in this vicinity.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*).—Nests commonly, arriving about May 15, and leaving September 1.

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*).—A common summer resident.

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*).—Breeds commonly along the rivers.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus villosus*).—Common in winter, and occasional in summer.

Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*).—A common resident.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*).—Irregular migrant; rare, summer resident.

Redheaded Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*).—An abundant summer resident.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*).—Abundant in summer, common in winter.

Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*).—Rare visitor.

Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*).—A tolerably frequent summer resident.

Sennett's Nighthawk (*Chordeiles virginianus senecti*).—An abundant summer resident.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*).—Abundant nester in the towns.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).—Several pairs have bred in Vermillion the last few summers.

Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).—An abundant summer resident.

Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*).—Common in summer.

especially about the small groves and "tree claims" of the prairies.

Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*).—A common summer resident. Remained until December 1st in the mild autumn of 1912.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis sayus*).—A rare or accidental visitor during the spring migration; recorded by E. H. Sweet in May, 1902.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*).—Rare migrant.

Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes virens*).—Common breeder, especially in the town.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii alnorum*).—A fairly abundant breeder in the willow thickets along the streams.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*).—Tolerably common summer resident.

Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*).—Common in winter, but quite rare in summer.

Desert Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris leucolaema*).—A winter visitor.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*).—An abundant resident.

Northern Raven (*Corvus corax principalis*).—Reported by Agersborg as a rare winter visitor.

Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*).—Abundant resident.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).—An abundant summer resident.

Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*).—Abundant from April to September.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*).—Numerous nester in the few marshes which have cattails and reeds.

Thick-billed Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*).—Breeds abundantly in reeds of marshes and in willows at water's edge. Arrives about the middle of March and leaves late in November or early in December.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*).—One of the more abundant prairie birds from mid-April to November; occasionally an individual winters.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*).—Abundantly represented in the summer (May 15-July 31), especially in the willow groves along the rivers.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*).—A common summer resident, especially in the towns.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*).—An occasional migrant. Reported by Agersborg to occasionally breed.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*).—A rare migrant.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*).—A common migrant, March and April, October and November. Also seen early in February, 1912.

Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscalus aeneus*).—Abundant from March 15 to October; occasional in December.

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*).—Rare winter visitant.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*).—A rare migrant.

Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*).—Rare migrant.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).—A rare migrant.

Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria linaria*).—Abundant in the winter months about the groves.

Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis tristis*).—An abundant resident.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*).—Tolerably common migrant, and occasionally common in winter.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*).—Common some winters, but rare others.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*).—Fairly plentiful from September to April.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*).—An abundant migrant, a rare breeder, and an occasional winter resident.

Western Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus confinis*).—A tolerably common breeder.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*).—A tolerably common breeder. Abundant in migrations, especially in late April and mid-September.

Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*).—Abundant from late April till early September.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi henslowi*).—A common migrant.

Leconte's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus lecontei*).—Tolerably common migrant.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus nelsoni nelsoni*).—A rare spring migrant; taken.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*).—Nests tolerably frequent, especially in tree claims on the plains.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).—An abundant migrant. One seen as late as June 18, 1912.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*).—A common migrant.

Gambel's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*).—Hayden captured a specimen of this variety near Vermilion in 1857.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).—A very common migrant.

Western Tree Sparrow (*Spizella monticola ochracea*).—The most abundant sparrow of the thickets from November to April.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina passerina*).—Common during the summer months; arrived March 12, 1913.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*).—Plentiful in migration, frequently nests.

Western Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla arctica*).—The most abundant sparrow during the summer months about the bluffs.

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*).—Plentiful in migrations; winters fairly plentiful in weed patches in the Missouri valley.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia melodia*).—Abundant migrant and rare in summer along the wooded streams.

Sabuta Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia giddi*).—Taken in migration near Vermilion.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*).—Regular migrant.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*).—Rare in the summer, frequent in migrations.

Fox Sparrow (*Passercella iliaca iliaca*).—Irregular migrant.

Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*).—Nests commonly. Seen as late as December, 1912.

Arctic Towhee (*Pipilio maculatus arcticus*).—Plentiful in migration.

Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*).—A tolerably common resident in the Missouri valley, near Vermilion.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*).—Abundant from early May to early September, especially in the city of Vermilion, where its song is perhaps the most frequent of bird songs during May and June.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Zamelodia melanocephala*).—Recorded by Agersborg, and by Rowley, as an occasional summer resident.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*).—An abundant summer resident.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*).—An occasional or accidental visitor. One certainly seen in Vermilion May 24, 1912.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*).—Very abundant during June and July.

Lark Bunting (*Catalospiza melanocorys*).—At present an uncommon migrant. Recorded by Rowley and Sweet and Agersborg as formerly a common nester during the dry years of the late 80's and 90's.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*).—A tolerably common summer resident.

Purple Martin (*Fregate subis subis*).—Plentiful in summer about the towns.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*).—Nests in colonies under the eaves of barns. Locally abundant.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*).—This is the best known swallow, as it nests in all barns.

Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).—An abundant migrant and rare breeder.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*).—Breeds in large colonies along the river.

Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*).—Breeds in small colonies in cut banks along roads and streams.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*).—Irregular during autumn, winter and spring.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*).—Common migrant; occasionally nests, rarely winters.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*).—Common in winter.

White-rumped Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*).—Breeds in most tree claims.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*).—A common summer resident.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireosylva philadelphica*).—A rare migrant.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireosylva gilva gilva*).—To be found in many groves in summer.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo belli belli*).—Rare breeder; nest found by Rowley.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Lanivireo solitarius solitarius*).—A rare spring migrant.

Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*).—A very common migrant.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata celata*).—A tolerably common, regular, migrant.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*).—A rare spring migrant.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*).—This species can be found, throughout the breeding season, in almost every grove.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*).—A fairly common migrant.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*).—An abundant migrant.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*).—A common migrant.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pennsylvanica*).—An uncommon migrant.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*).—A rare migrant.

Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*).—An abundant migrant

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*).—A rare spring migrant.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*).—An uncommon migrant.

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*).—A common migrant.

Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*).—A common summer resident.

Grinnell's Water-Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*).—Common in spring and fall along the streams.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis phidelphia*).—A rare migrant; quite common in May, 1912.

Western Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*).—A common migrant and fairly common breeder.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens virens*).—Breeds abundantly in the low willow thickets of the Missouri flood plains along old channels.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*).—A common migrant.

Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*).—Abundant migrant and common breeder.

Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*).—A common migrant.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguei*).—A tolerably common migrant.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*).—An accidental spring visitor. One observed May 7, 1911.

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*).—An abundant breeder in all thickets.

Brown Thrasher (*Torostoma rufum*).—Plentiful in summer.

Western House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*).—Breeds abundantly along the river and about the towns.

Winter Wren (*Tannus hiemalis*).—A rare migrant.

Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*).—A tolerably common migrant, and according to Agersborg, a rare summer resident.

Prairie Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris iliacus*).—A tolerably common summer resident.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris americana*).—Abundant winter and rare summer resident.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*).—Tolerably common resident; abundant during the winter months, especially in Vermilion.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*).—A rare migrant.

Long-tailed Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*).—A resident; in winter abundant.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa satrapa*).—A tolerably common migrant and winter resident.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*).—Common in migrations and occasional in winter.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*).—An accidental winter visitor. For an account of a straggler seen January 9, 1911, see *The Auk*, April, 1911, p. 270.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*).—Breeds abundantly in Vermilion and in the wooded ravines.

Willow Thrush (*Hylocichla fuscescens sativicola*).—Common during migrations and rare during the breeding season.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Hylocichla aliciae aliciae*).—A common migrant.

Olive-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*).—An abundant migrant.

Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*).—A rare migrant.

Robin (*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*).—An abundant resident. During the winter the robins form large flocks, which spend most of the time in the groves of the Missouri valley, where they feed extensively upon the berries of smilax.

Bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*).—A few pairs nest each year in this county.

THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB was called to order at 9 a. m., in the Assembly Room of the New Morrison Hotel, Chicago, by President T. C. Stephens. The whole morning was devoted to the completion of the reorganization, as unfinished business from the last annual meeting, and with the consideration of new business. The roll call of members showed twenty-three members in attendance, of whom four were women. A long list of new members was acted upon favorably. Plans for an active campaign looking toward advertising the existence of this organization in the central districts of the country, and securing their coöperation were perfected, and committees appointed to carry the plans through.

After the convening of the members in the afternoon, and the completion of routine business, the following papers were presented:

Food of the Virginia Rail, by Alvin R. Cahn, of the University of Wisconsin.

Nest-Life of the Grosbeak, by Ira N. Gabrielson, of the Marshalltown, Iowa, public schools.