

Bachman's Sparrow, of which a pair or two were here and no doubt bred, having been seen by the writer repeatedly from May 9th to July 2d.

Professor W. W. Cooke, of Washington, writes me that the number of nesting birds for "Waller's Park" is higher than the average for this vicinity. This shows again what protection does for birds, unintentional even as it was and is in this case. I may add that the method used in getting the above result was the one advocated by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, viz. several observers went through the tract, beginning at 6 o'clock in the morning until finished, walking in parallel lines, the supposition being that at that time of the year and in that part of the day the birds seen will be males—as was borne out by this census in the case of those species in which the sexes can readily be told—and each male representing a breeding pair.

River Forest, Illinois.

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### FIVE HOURS ON BUTLER'S LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, ILL.

BY WALTER A. GOELITZ.

This lake covers from thirty to forty acres and is surrounded by a few wood-lots, pastures, house yards, and a public road. The margin is shallow and swampy, with cat-tails and reeds extending in from twenty to two hundred feet from the hilly ground surrounding the lake. The birds of Butler's Lake are protected the year around and for that reason many can be found there that are scarce or wholly wanting in similar regions in Lake County.

I spent only two hours there on my first trip on July 2, 1915, but had the good luck to find twelve nests. The first of these nests was that of a Yellow-headed Blackbird and contained three eggs. This was a find of some note to me, for not only was it the first of its kind I have ever found, but also because Butler's Lake is the only place in Lake County where these blackbirds breed. In the extensive Skokie Marsh,

which covers several thousand acres and which is located just five miles to the east, no Yellow-heads can be found, even in migration time. During the remainder of the two hour's hunt two or more nests were found containing four eggs and three young, respectively. Besides these nests there were some twenty young birds scrambling through the reeds or sunning themselves on dead cat-tail stalks.

The next nest found was that of the Pied-billed Grebe with five eggs. It was situated in the center of a small open area in the reeds along the shore. The eggs were uncovered. Another nest of this grebe was found in a more open situation on the other side of the lake and contained seven warm, uncovered eggs. About two hundred feet away from the first grebe's nest was found a Florida Gallinule's nest and set of nine eggs. Most of the eggs were pipped and one egg was nearly hatched. This egg I put in my pocket, where it hatched, and afterward the young was given to Mr. Henry K. Coale, of Highland Park, Ill.

Within a few feet of the Gallinule's nest a Least Bittern was flushed from its nest in a small clump of dead rushes. The nest was a foot above the water and held four fresh eggs. Another similarly situated nest was found a little later containing four eggs. A few hundred feet further on about fifteen Black Terns were flying around a certain spot where the reeds grew far out into the lake. They were much alarmed at my presence and kept up an incessant screaming. Three Black Tern nests were located, two containing three eggs each and the other, two eggs. All three were composed of a small mat of rushes floating on the water, and in one the eggs were lying in a quarter of an inch of water. The last nest for the first day was a Kingbird's in an oak tree near the lake with three well incubated eggs.

In wading through the marshy edge I flushed many other birds, such as King Rails, Sora, Coot, Mallard, Bittern, Redwing, Green Heron, and Long-billed Marsh Wren. I saw one female Mallard with ten young and also many empty or dummy nests of the Marsh Wrens, beside other large nests resembling those of the King Rail and Bittern.

In order to take some pictures of these nests I again went out to Butler's Lake on the eighth of July. I spent three hours in taking pictures and in finding new nests. Only a few of the pictures were good, because of the high wind that was blowing and shaking the nests. On this day two more Black Tern nests, with two eggs and two young, were found in the same part of the lake that those on July 2 were found. One of the young swam out of sight before I could focus my camera. Another Florida Gallinule nest was found with four pipped eggs and some shell chips, from which I suppose others had hatched and had already taken to water. Of the Least Bittern, four were located. One had five eggs, two held four eggs each, and a fourth had four broken eggs. Two Yellow-headed Blackbird nests with three eggs each, one with one egg, and another with four well grown young were seen; also one Red-winged Blackbird's with four young. In a very open situation between two beds of reeds my first Coot nest was discovered containing three eggs.

I consider Butler's Lake to be an oasis of water birds in Lake County. The whole county is thoroughly hunted fall and spring, therefore the wealth of bird life is due wholly to protection and not especially to food supply, for there are over a hundred lakes in Lake County similar in situation and adaptability for water birds to Butler's Lake.

Ravinia, Illinois.

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### CARDINALS IN NORTHEASTERN IOWA.

BY MARY E. HATCH, M'GREGOR, IOWA.

The first cardinal seen in this part of the country, so far as I know—at least the first to be recorded, was on December 11, 1906. It appeared in the yard adjoining the one where we lived, in the north end of this little bluff bordered town.

The ground was well covered with snow; so it is not hard to imagine my surprise and delight, upon looking out of my kitchen window, in seeing this beautiful dash of red against the white background. And what was he doing? Feeding