

while just over a sand ridge, on the beach, were Spotted Sandpipers, Sanderling, Semipalmated Plover, and a Turnstone. The big fellow was easily identified a little later as a Western Willet and proved the least timid of the lot, remaining after all the rest had flown, and running about in the shallow water. This was seemingly done to startle his food into action so as to effect its capture. Several large pollywogs, which he had drawn into shallow water, were not taken, however, but seemed greatly to arouse his curiosity. The bird had to be purposely flushed in order to see the attractive wing pattern, but he returned immediately, and I flushed him suddenly again to hear his call, and succeeded. Later in the day I found him unconsciously hunting the beach within a few hundred feet of a large gathering of bathers.

E. A. DOOLITTLE.

Painesville, Ohio.

SUMMER RECORDS FOR 1917.

In northwestern Iowa weather conditions throughout April and May were exceedingly unfavorable for seeing migrating bird. Similar conditions in 1915 were followed by like results, making the records for these months the poorest in a dozen years. In both years the birds were halted somewhere south of my station, and when their journey was resumed most of them hurried northward without stopping.

After a spring lacking in usual interests there has followed a summer in which the birds have been more plentiful than any year since 1910. This statement is based upon records of the species seen daily in my own dooryard and its immediate neighborhood, where forty-two species are known to have nested within recent years. Some of these, such as the Sora, Western Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow and Chickadee are infrequent breeding birds, the Cliff Swallow and Purple Martin are summer residents of the past, the Blue Jay has become scarce, and of late the Sparrow Hawk and Screech Owl are discouraged in every possible way from nesting.

For June and July, and for August to date (which is the 25th), the daily average of species seen has been twenty-three, the highest number for any day being thirty-two, and the lowest thirteen. The total number of species seen in these months on our place and its near neighborhood is sixty, which is exactly two-thirds of the number seen here this year. All but three of the breeding species have been present, and in addition there have been twenty-one visiting species. In size the variation has been great, ranging from that of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird to that of the immature

Bald Eagle. This Eagle caller, when departing, was chased by a Marsh Hawk, and the immense spread of its wings could thus be compared with that of the Hawk. Their proportional sizes were to each other about as those of Crow to Kingbird, and their behavior was decidedly similar.

Seeing and hearing daily within hailing distance of ones doorstep an average of twenty-three species of birds is a privilege not to be despised, neither are the thrills that come when rare visitors appear quite unexpectedly: to step outside to find a non-reporting Chipping Sparrow and see a Great Blue Heron flying overhead, or to go a little farther in search of a Short-billed Marsh Wren and find instead a Bald Eagle gives zest to the roll calling. But the best part is to see the recruited numbers of some species that have been sadly missed of late. This is especially true of the Bobolink, that joyous rollicking songster which had almost disappeared from fields and orchards for a few years. The Dickcissel, entirely wanting last year, has been present in moderate numbers, and the Grasshopper Sparrow, always scarce, has been with us again. The Mourning Dove seems to be prospering as never before. Perhaps prosperity has made it more generous in revealing its nest secrets, at all events some unsuspected features have been displayed. The seventh nest of this species that has been found on our place in 1917 is now in progress. The Maryland Yellowthroat apparently was driven away by House Wrens, whose numbers have increased unduly. When such an increase happened among the Flickers a few years ago some very curious things took place by which further increase was checked and the species has now been reduced to normal numbers. It will be a matter of interest to note, if anything of like nature occurs among the Wrens, though it seems extremely unlikely.

Species whose summer residence with us is short are staying in more than usual numbers; since they came late in the spring it is possible they do not intend to cut short their northern sojourn. No Warblers from the north have been seen, though it is now time for first arrivals.

ALTHEA R. SHERMAN.

National, Iowa.

WEIGHT OF AN EAGLE'S BRAIN.

Recently Mr. Wirt W. Hallam, Secretary of the Chicago Vigilance Association, desired to secure information showing the relative brain capacity of a domestic fowl and of an eagle. Inquiry of various ornithologists failed to bring him the information, and he was compelled to secure the data himself. He secured a male