

mounted the stones of a breakwater at the lake and looked down on the other side, I was surprised beyond measure to see an immature of the species seated on one of the lower stones just below me. After a sufficient study of the bird I had a difficult time in driving it far enough out into the lake to have it escape the shot of the first hunter that happened along, as its perch was not twenty feet from shore. Looking back afterwards I saw it swim back and fly up to its original rock. Later on some fishermen succeeded in driving it far out on the water, and as it could not be located the next morning, I trust it escaped the fate usually meted out to any large or strange bird.

On August 10, 1920, while watching the Bronzed Grackles winging leisurely along to their roost in long extended flocks of hundreds, and the Cowbirds in swifter, undulating bunches like bands of galloping outlaws, a bunch of twenty "black birds" passed by whose short tails, swift flight and perfect unison of movement of the members of the flock made me at once suspect them to be Starlings. Visiting the roost itself an evening or so later a few were seen and readily identified, but I find it difficult to approach the more easily frightened Starlings among the thousands of Grackles and Cowbirds. Early in October I tried the expedient of climbing a tree in the roost and looking down upon the thorn trees as the birds settled in for the night. This was highly successful and I got excellent views of many of the birds, now in winter plumage. Towards dusk, when patterns were more obvious than colors, the Starlings had a striking resemblance to undersized Flickers. This was also remarked upon later by a friend who also visited the place. It was impossible to obtain any exact count of their numbers, but there were surely between fifty and one hundred; which seems to say that the day is not far distant when the Starling will be a common Ohio bird.

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Fall Migration in Northwestern Nebraska in 1920.

With a view to continuing the observations on the fall bird migration begun in September, 1919, in northwestern Nebraska, Mr. C. E. Mickel and the writer returned to the Monroe Canyon region of Sioux county, Nebraska, on September 26, 1920, and remained until October 9. During this period sixty-one species were recorded. Since only sixty-eight species were recorded the preceding year during the more favorable season, September 6-20, we considered the list rather good. Some of the more interesting observations follow:

Mountain Plover: On September 27, while crossing a strip

of badlands north of Monroe Canyon our attention was suddenly arrested by a Mountain Plover standing motionless on the bare ground near our pathway. The bird harmonized so remarkably well with the pallid, buff-colored soil that we congratulated ourselves upon having discovered it. Doubtless depending instinctively upon its resemblance to its surroundings for protection, the bird remained absolutely motionless as we approached. Since there are but a few definite records of this species for Nebraska the specimen was collected.

Red-naped Sapsucker: A specimen was collected on September 29, and oddly enough, from the identical tree, an old boxelder, that yielded the state record specimen which was taken the year before and recorded by Mr. Mickel in the September, 1920, number of The Wilson Bulletin. A second individual was noted on October 4.

Lewis Woodpecker: It has been the privilege of the writer to spend from two to three weeks in camp in the Pine Ridge Region of northwestern Nebraska for several years, namely, 1905, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1919, and 1920, with the seasons varying from June 15 to October 9. On all of these trips at least a part of the time has been devoted to bird study, but not until the past season did he succeed in finding the Lewis Woodpecker. On September 29 a family of six or seven birds was observed among the pine trees at the head of Monroe Canyon. While possibly a common migrant and winter visitor, the Lewis Woodpecker probably does not nest as commonly within the state as we have supposed.

Clarke Nutcracker: A single specimen was noted on October 6.

Sparrows: The sparrow migration was both a surprise and a disappointment, not only because of the small number of species present but because of the relative scarcity of individuals. The species noted were as follows: Western Vesper Sparrow, fairly common; Harris Sparrow, a single specimen seen October 3; White-crowned Sparrow, one seen September 30; Gambel Sparrow, the prevailing species, seen nearly every day; Western Chipping Sparrow, fairly common on the pine-covered bluffs; Clay-colored Sparrow, noted on four different days, one or two birds at a time—a striking contrast to the great abundance of this species in the same locality the preceding year in middle September; Lincoln Sparrow, two individuals noted, one on the 4th and one on the 5th of October. Like the sparrows Juncos were surprisingly scarce, although several species were noted, namely, White-winged, Slate-colored, Shufeldt and Pink-sided.

Western Tanager: A few Western Tanagers lingered until October 1, which seemed to us a very late date.

Warblers: Two interesting warblers for a locality so far to

the west were noted, the Black-throated Blue on October 6 and the Black-throated Green on October 8.

Sprague Pipit: This species is regarded as sufficiently uncommon in Nebraska as to make the collection of a specimen on October 1 seem worthy of note.

Sage Thrasher: A single specimen was seen and collected in the sage brush a few miles north of the mouth of Monroe Canyon on September 27. But few definite records of the Sage Thrasher are at hand for Nebraska, but it is believed to occur regularly in small numbers in the badlands of Sioux county.

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Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Present Status of the Whooping Crane.

There seem to be no published records of the occurrence of the Whooping Crane since the note recording the taking of specimens at Wood Lake, Cherry county, and Grand Island, Hall county, Nebraska, was published in *The Auk*, 1913, page 430, by the writer, hence the following notes possess considerable interest, especially as the suspicion has been expressed that possibly the species had become extinct.

On March 29, 1919, a small flock of Whooping Cranes was seen near Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebraska, on an island in the Platte river. In company with Mr. C. A. Black of Kearney, the writer interviewed the observers, who are wholly to be relied upon, a few hours after the birds were seen. The "white cranes" (= Whooping Cranes) were in a large flock of "blue cranes" (= Sandhill Cranes), but had departed upon our reaching the place late in the same day, though most of the smaller species remained. In the spring of 1920, Mr. C. A. Black, who is an able and wholly reliable field ornithologist, saw two Whooping Cranes in a flock of Sandhill Cranes flying northward at a considerable height, at Kearney, on April 2, and on April 14 he saw a flock of 56 Whooping Cranes at the same locality.

Since the publishing of the 1913 note above referred to, there have been several Whooping Cranes killed in Nebraska, according to reports. On March 10, 1915, one was killed at Ogallala, Keith county, and is now in a private collection at that place, and in the fall of 1915 two were shot on the Platte River in Hall county, north of Prosser, but were destroyed by fire in 1917; in the spring of 1917 one was shot near Minden, and is in a collection there, and in the fall of that year it is reported that three were killed near Kearney (by a hunter who buried the birds through fear of the law) and another along the Platte, somewhere near its mouth; finally, in the spring of 1918 six were seen on the Platte river near Kearney, by a very reliable hunter, who, to his credit, abstained from