

The shortened season, however, has practically given them immunity from hunters except of course from a lawless few. Without making any particular search for them, the writer has located not less than a dozen breeding pair, close to town, including three pair almost within the city limits. Considering the relatively small amount of ground covered in my field work it can readily be seen that the Woodcock population must by now be considerable.

Having thus attested to the fruits which have been reaped through protection it becomes my painful duty to record that our local legislators have recently passed a measure, again extending the season on Bob-white to March 1st, within the limits of this county. The bill was "slipped over" during the last few days of the legislative session and passed due to the fact that a self-seeking Game and Fish Commissioner failed to apprise local conservationists of the new law. The very fact that "quail" hunters will be abroad until March 1st, until the law can be repealed, means a backset to our local Woodcock that is disheartening, since few heed, or know of the Federal protection afforded them after January 1st. Bob-white, being neither classified as song or migratory game bird, is subject to no Federal protection at present, but if, by national statute, its pursuit could be eliminated after February 1st, the Woodcock throughout the country would profit thereby and hold their own at least.

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#### "REMIGRATION OF BIRDS"

Instances of the "remigration" of birds, which formed the subject of your recent communication from Gordon Wilson, of Bowling Green, Ky., have been repeatedly noted here. During such spells of very warm weather as were frequently experienced all over the country this winter just passed, our thousands of visiting waterfowl would disappear so completely that hardly a duck or goose would be sighted by hunters for weeks at a time; but the first hint of a coming norther refilled the marshes with the hordes, whose overhead cries can be heard locally any still day or night from September till about the middle of March.

The same holds with regard to perching birds; in very cold snaps even such species as robins, bluebirds, flickers, and many others that do not ordinarily come as far down as the coastal lowlands, with our total lack of trees, are seen in small companies that vanish coincidentally with the dying out of the high winds that follow immediately upon their appearance.

Last year, for the first time within my experience, and this extends over a space of eighteen migratory seasons, the first of our martins to appear turned back, after trying to tough out a rather prolonged late cold snap for two days, and did not reappear for more than a week.

Among the birds of apparently limited migration that spent the cold months here are many of our own kinds; they join their southern relatives for varying periods of time, mostly in immense flocks, like the five or six representatives of the blackbird family; or the droves of English sparrows that arrive in flocks early in September; and seek out the rice fields and wild grass stretches of the open prairies.

Catbirds, shrikes, mockingbirds, and their immediate kin, appear and disappear with the shifts in the weather; usually in twos or threes of their own kind, although the three named seem fond of traveling in each other's company.

I have in my miniature aviary a female mockingbird which flew against the screened porch where I had a crippled male until I was afraid a cat would certainly get her; so finally opened the door and let her in with my other birds, where she is perfectly satisfied.

She is a little smaller and darker than our large boldly marked East Texas-West Louisiana mockingbirds, and instead of their sophisticated cold grey eyes hers are of a warm amber. Presumably she is from one of the states north of Texas and Louisiana; but in size and the dullness of her markings she reminds me of the mockingbirds found in the extreme west and northwest of this state, also in upper Mexico and New Mexico.

And since a Groove-billed Ani, whose range is so very far west and south of this section, was shot within a few miles of town last year I have wondered if she might not also have been forced beyond the borders of her natural limits by some such untoward circumstance as brought the ani here.

Also, in other years, several other wanderers from the habitual migratory trails of their kind.

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#### A CROW SUICIDE

A friend has told me the following interesting story of a crow committing suicide:

On the afternoon of May 29, 1921, while returning from a swim in Buffalo Creek with several other boys, my friend says they found a crow that was apparently sick or crippled in some way, for it was able to walk but could not fly. Thinking to have some fun, they caught the unfortunate bird and tossed him into a nearby pond (certainly a very disrespectful way to treat a fellow citizen). The pond was very shallow, according to his account, and the crow could have easily waded out had he been so inclined, but instead, thinking perhaps that death awaited him at the shore, he deliberately put his head under water and soon drowned. Whether the pond *was* shallow may be open to question, but if all details are correct it was surely a pure case of suicide.