

Three later censuses — 42 miles — from August 3 to 9, gave an average of 8 birds per mile; in these the effect of the flocking of Cliff and Barn Swallows is seen, for more than half of the native birds recorded — 125 out of 330 — belonged to these species.

This further experience has convinced us that the chief value of the roadside census for comparative purposes lies during the breeding season, partly because birds are easier to identify then, but largely because of the stability of the avian population.

Norman, Okla.

MARGARET M. NICE and L. B. NICE.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT—*ANTHUS SPRAGUEI*—IN FLORIDA

On February 23rd, 1921, while investigating a colony of Florida Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto floridana floridana*) in De Sota County — now Charlotte County — about eight miles northwest of Punta Gorda, I noticed two small birds fly up from the very open, sandy "prairie" and go off quite wild in rather erratic flight. A general grayish color and decidedly white on the outer tail feathers indicated a stranger to me. One of the birds went off entirely out of sight *eastward* while the other lit on the summit of an excavation on the border of a large drainage canal and was there shot and later found to be a female in normal winter plumage.

So far as I can determine this is the first record for this bird in Florida.

On March 7th, following, while crossing the same "prairie" about one and one-half miles farther east another bird of this species was observed and twice flushed at long range and finally disappeared. I judged it might be the number two bird seen February 23rd.

C. J. PENNOCK,

Kennett Square, Pa.

WILD BIRDS AND GAME FOWL ARE INCREASING

Notable increases in migratory birds, through special protection afforded them under Federal laws, are reported by George A. Lawyer, Chief U. S. Game Warden of the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, as a feature of his recent inspection of the various districts scattered throughout the country. Mr. Lawyer's trip took him practically around the borders and coasts of the entire country, giving him opportunity to observe the condition of the birds in all important wintering sections of the United States.

Wild ducks and geese were found in great abundance, showing the most notable increase of any of the migratory birds. Greater numbers of upland plover, sandhill cranes, and Wilson snipe or jacksnipe, were also especially noted. The welfare of the birds was found to be generally satisfactory and promising, although the

draining of marsh lands in many places has driven them from some of their old feeding and breeding haunts.

Greater need is evidenced for the Government purchase and maintenance of large tracts of marsh lands, where the birds would be secure from molestation. Such natural asylums, it is said, are becoming fewer and consequently are affording less protection each year, due chiefly to the large areas being reclaimed for commercial purposes. The birds are quick to discover when they are in places where they are safe from hunters.

NOTES ON SOME FLYCATCHERS OBSERVED NEAR MINDEN, NEBRASKA

After reading the article on the distribution and migration of the flycatchers of Nebraska in the September, 1921, number of the Wilson Bulletin, it seems desirable to place on record the fact that in company with two other observers I noted a scissor-tailed flycatcher here at Minden, Kearney County, in the spring of 1917. I also found the crested flycatcher here in the spring of 1919, and the least flycatcher is a common migrant here both in the spring and fall. The fall migration this year is much less than I have observed it to be for many years. Mr. Mortenson and myself saw a mockingbird October 28, 1921, which is much later than I have known one to be here before.—H. Hapeman, Minden, Nebraska.

AN UNUSUAL EASTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE MAGPIE IN NEBRASKA

Ordinarily the magpie does not move eastward in the fall beyond the 100th meridians, except along the northern border of Nebraska, and records of its occurrence east of the 98th meridian are few, usually not more than once every few years. The present fall of 1921, however, has brought these birds in unusual numbers into eastern, and even southeastern Nebraska. The first report of the occurrence of the magpie in southeastern Nebraska this year came from the rather heavily wooded Salt Creek bottoms in southern Lancaster County, south of Lincoln, during the first week in October. Numerous Lincoln observers reported the magpie from that region during October, usually but one bird seen, except that Mrs. George O. Smith noted two birds on October 9. The last date on which the magpie was noted in that region was on October 23, when one bird was seen by Mr. N. F. Peterson. On October 11 the magpie was noted by Mrs. John Loder on her farm near Waverly in northeastern Lancaster County, and the bird was present there until at least October 30, when it was last noted. On October 23 Mr. L. W. Dawson of Lincoln, saw three magpies near Weeping Water, Cass County, within a few miles of the Missouri river. About October 29 a flock of five magpies