

saw the same thing, many of them independently of the others. Though the Hummingbird has been known to me all my life, I have never at any other time seen a baby bird so much smaller than the adult. Doubting whether I should write this note for publication, I told the incident to Dr. L. O. Pindar of Versailles, Kentucky, who is the veteran bird student of this state. He records that he had never seen anything like this until last spring also. I should like to know how common this phenomenon is. We have all seen young Bobwhites only a few hours old running around in a meadow, and flying before they were grown, but I have been unable to find any reference to Hummingbirds sharing this precocity.

GORDON WILSON.

Bowling Green, Ky.

A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

As a rule, sight records of very rare birds must be taken charily. When I published in *Auk* my check-list of birds for this locality I was afraid of casting doubt upon my whole record of ten years' study here if I included the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, two of which I recorded at close range in April, 1918. On September 7, 1922, while I was standing at the edge of Hobson's Marsh near this town a sandpiper flew up within a few feet of me. I followed it to the opposite side of the pond, where I stood within ten feet of the bird for several minutes. At first I thought it was the Pectoral Sandpiper but I soon saw that it lacked the distinctive markings of that species. Fortunately, I had in my hands a bird-book with a very good drawing of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, accompanied by an accurate description of its markings. The markings of this bird so closely coincided with those of the picture and the description that there is no doubt in my mind that it was really the Buff-breasted. I told the story of my find to Mr. A. F. Ganier, who was convinced that my identification was correct and who advised me to submit my data to the Editor of the Wilson Bulletin for publication.

GORDON WILSON.

Bowling Green, Ky.

SOME NEW WINTER RECORDS

The early part of the winter just past, 1922-23, was very mild here. I suppose it was for this reason that three birds which are usually found only in the summer spent the entire winter: the Red-headed Woodpecker, the Bronzed Grackle, and the Red-winged Blackbird. There is great irregularity about the winter distribution of the Red-headed Woodpecker in this state. In some sections farther north it is always found the year round but my latest previous record for this place was October 15 (1921). Though it was not found in the same abundance as in summer, there never was a time this winter when three or four could not be seen on an afternoon walk. The Red-winged Blackbird has always stayed late in the fall, November 12 (1921) being my latest record, but this winter it was common throughout the months of January, February

and March, having also been seen in numbers during Christmas week. The Bronzed Grackle has shortened its stay in the South for several winters, its season here being in 1920, February 22 to November 27; in 1921, February 4 to November 23. In 1922 it arrived January 21 and has been common to abundant ever since that time. In spite of very severe winter weather in February and March, 1923, it, unlike its habit in former years, remained common. Just as the unusually severe winter of 1917-18 caused birds not previously seen here to remain even several weeks, such as the Tree Sparrow, which has been a regular winter resident ever since, so, I believe, the recurrence of mild winters might cause some more of our summer residents to become permanent residents.

GORDON WILSON.

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MIGRANT SHRIKE NESTING IN KENTUCKY

In my eleven or twelve years' experience as a bird observer here I have found only two nests of the Migrant Shrike, one in the spring of 1912, the other on April 11, 1923. The first nest contained four young just out of the shell and was a crude affair of honey-locust thorns and coarse sticks. The female bird flew off the nest just as I came near and scolded in her harsh way as long as I was around. The male was building the nest I found recently and had it almost finished. The Migrant Shrike is such a very rare bird here that I usually see no more than three or four in a single season. Consequently, I have felt considerable pride in my recent find.

Bowling Green, Ky.

GORDON WILSON.

AN UNUSUAL FIND OF DUCKS

On April 13, 1923, I was motoring with a party of friends through the southern part of Warren County. There had been a number of heavy rains and all the lowlands were flooded. At the farm of Mr. C. U. McElroy, near Rich Pond, Kentucky, some hundred acres were covered with water from an inch to several feet in depth. Over this entire area there were flocks of ducks, estimated by the members of the party as fully ten thousand in number. Flocks were continually leaving or arriving. As a severe thunder-storm was coming, it was impossible for me to study the ducks at close range. Consequently, I could recognize only those small flocks which came near the road. These flocks were made up of Blue-winged Teals and Mallards, but some of the ducks on the pond seemed to be large and dark colored. In 1912 I visited this same pond, finding, besides the common ducks of our ponds and rivers, the White-winged Scoter and other rarer ducks. It is unusual here to see at any time of the year more than twenty or thirty ducks, though along the numerous large rivers of Kentucky greater numbers are often seen.

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