

NOTES—HERE AND THERE

Conducted by the Secretary

On March 7th the Secretary, at the invitation of the Outdoor Art League of Louisville, Kentucky, gave four lectures on Ornithology in that city. In the forenoon he spoke before the Louisville Normal School on "The Educative Value of Bird Study"; before the Male High School on "The Miracle of Migration"; and before the Kentucky Home School for Girls on "The Wonder of the Commonplace". At noon he was the guest of the Outdoor Art League at a luncheon at the Henry Watterson Hotel, where he spoke on "Modern Methods of Bird Study", emphasizing especially bird-gardening, bird-banding, and bird-reservations.

It is a matter of gratification to us of the W. O. C. that one of our good members, George M. Sutton of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, is making quite a reputation as a bird-artist. There is no field that offers such opportunities for service as that of painting wild life in its native habitat. Much of the older work was too stiff, and reminded one at best only of well-mounted specimens in a museum. Mr. Sutton is continuing his work on his admirable study "The Birds of Florida". We will welcome the publication of this great study.

The Park City Daily News (Bowling Green, Kentucky) had the following as a news item on March 5, 1924: "Erwin, 7, son of Westerfield Dorsey, a farmer living three miles south of Smith's Grove, on the Smith's Grove and Glasgow Road, had a narrow escape when attacked by a large Golden Eagle last evening in the front yard of his father's home. The child was playing in the yard when the eagle flew at him twice. The second time the eagle flew against a wire fence and was crippled. The boy screamed for help and his father came to his assistance. The eagle was captured by Dorsey and is now caged. The eagle measures 52 inches from tip to tip and is a young bird. It is attracting a great deal of attention, being the largest eagle that has ever been captured in the Smith's Grove vicinity".

Franklin P. Metcalf, now teaching in Fukien Christian University, Foochow, China, writes the Treasurer: "The bird situation out here is very unusual, as we have such a large variety that live in or pass through this province. In fact, there are 462 birds reported from this region near Foochow, and I do not suppose that the list could be called complete. A great opportunity for some museum to build up its collection would be found in this region".

Here is a note about one of our members who is now far away: "St. Mary's Ohio, April 12, 1924—A 'whistling monkey' was shot by Professor Walter F. Henninger, former Auglaize County church pastor, now at the head of a school in Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil. The monkey treed itself on the comb of Henninger's house, his letter states. After unsuccessful attempts to catch the nimble-footed vagrant, Henninger brought it down by means of firearms. Then his wife declined to cook the carcass for him. Monkey meat is a decided delicacy,

Henninger insists. During a January summer outing at his station in the southern hemisphere Henninger says he and his wife captured 1500 perfect specimens of butterflies and other insects. His students on summer vacation (at Christmas time) caught 2000 bugs, which they donated to the enterprising professor. His collection now exceeds 11,000. A photograph shows Henninger and a woman school teacher holding a six-foot live snake stretched between them. A twelve-foot crocodile is a prize Henninger hopes to capture and bring with him when he returns to the States."

In the second annual bird census made by three members of the San Diego Society of Natural History on January 30 a total of 107 species of birds were counted between the hours of 7 a. m. and 5 p. m., all within a radius of 15 miles of San Diego. This exceeded by 14 the highest previous record, says a dispatch from that city.

Miss Lena B. Henderson, head of the Biology Department of Randolph-Macon College, Lynchburg, Virginia, one of our new members, writes to the Secretary: "We have a very interesting Robin on our campus. Its throat is pure white, there are broken white lines over the eyes, and the under tail coverts are white. Its bill is lighter than normal. There is a great deal of interest manifested by our students in Biology, and I should like to follow it up. I hope it will nest here. I have never done any bird-banding, but it seems that we should keep some record of this interesting bird."

Thomas M. Earl, Columbus, Ohio, the famous taxidermist, has issued on the back of his advertisement a clever series of jingles called "Bird Orders in Rhyme". Here is a sample:

"An-ser-es is Order Five,
In one family they thrive;
Ducks and honking geese and swans,
Wild, likewise domestic ones;
Notice the peculiar bill
With its inner tooth-like frill."

On March 4, 1924, our good friend, Professor Dayton Stoner of the University of Iowa, gave from the university broadcasting station, WHAA, a lecture on "Spring Birds", which has since been printed as a regular issue of the University of Iowa Service Bulletin. Dr. Stoner is always interesting and does himself peculiar credit here in his account of the problems of migration, the different kinds of birds, (permanent residents, summer, winter, and migrants), and the dates of the great migration waves.

Mr. Belden Saur of Norwood, Ohio, writes to the Secretary: "On Friday, April 19, I took several boy friends of mine and set out for a little walk in a small strip of woodland near Newtown, Ohio (about two miles from Cincinnati). We had no particular aims in view, just collecting a few wild flowers, or studying a casual bird that might fly by. After walking a while, our attention was attracted by a group of Black Vultures which were excitedly plunging about over heads in a very un-Vulture-like manner. There are several Owl roosts in this woods; so

I naturally supposed that the Vultures had found an Owl. I suggested that we sit down and watch to see what would turn up. As we sat there, a large group of Crows suddenly appeared from nowhere, followed by two Red-tailed Hawks. Sounds strange, doesn't it? Well, danger, I suppose, also makes strange bedfellows, for the Vultures, the Crows, and the Hawks all flew peacefully about one another for a bit. Then I was given a treat, which I believe was one of the greatest that I have known in my study of birds. A gigantic bird, judged by the size of the Vultures and the Hawks, floated across the sky. It had a smaller bird in its claws which I could not recognize. It alighted in a near-by tree; I instantly recognized it as a Bald Eagle, almost a bird of my city dreams, right before me. He remained but for a minute, as the allies, the hawks, the vultures, and the crows, pounced upon him. That minute was enough, though, for I plainly saw the white head, the yellow beak, and the peculiar roosting position of the Eagle."

Douglas Ayres, Junior, St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York, commenting on his Christmas census in *Bird-Lore*, says to the Secretary: "I think fifteen species is the highest number ever seen in one day while taking the bird census, but it gives me more pleasure than any other winter trip. Up here in the St. Lawrence country bird life is very scant. On December 8, 1923, I saw a flock of 70 Evening Grosbeaks feeding on sumach cones, the canary yellow of the males contrasting vividly with the maroon of the sumach berries. On January 26 I saw an Artic Three-toed Woodpecker. I rapped on the dead pine on which it was hammering and it flew right down and lit on a log near me and then hitched along the log towards me. It was a female. I saw a male a year ago up here. A pair of Great Horned Owls are residents in a near-by swamp. Some time next month (The letter was dated February 18, 1924) we will see a flock of Red Wings swaying in the tree-tops and the Canada Geese will honk overhead, and then we will know that spring is here. With the thermometer at 14 below zero continuously, winter grows monotonous."

Miss Emilie Yunker of Louisville, Kentucky, a prominent member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, is Director of School Gardens for that city. One of her activities is a series of directed hikes with school children to the parks of the city. Captain Fulkerson, the keeper at Cherokee Park, is a great friend of the birds and helps Miss Yunker in her studies with the school children. On April 18, 1923, the pupils of the I. N. Bloom School, who have taken these hikes every Saturday morning this year, gave a dramatization of Longfellow's "Birds of Killingworth" and in addition a number of their observations in the regular hikes.

The April, 1924, "Gull", published at San Francisco, contains a stinging protest from the editor, A. S. Kibbe, against the illegal practices of the Du Pont Powder Company in inciting the people to destroy numbers of species of birds against which there is a general prejudice. The Secretary feels that the point is well taken and believes that ornithologists and sportsmen alike should protest in like manner against this prominent ammunition company.

The Louisville, Kentucky, *Times* for April 24 contained an editorial which quoted the protest of *The American Field* against this very propaganda by ammunition companies, and says, in conclusion, "The purpose behind the crow-killing contests (such as the one in Tilden, Nebraska, which resulted in the destruction of 17,000 crows) which the Federal Department of Agriculture has not indorsed, and which many ornithologists and many mere human beings deplore as a foolish and savage onslaught upon a species probably more useful than injurious, is ammunition selling."

The Hesston, Kansas, Audubon Society has given this year for the benefit of its members a series of lectures on "Birds and Bird Life."

There are always good ways to keep people informed and interested in birds. Our good friend, I. H. Johnston, State Ornithologist of West Virginia, has adopted the method of speaking to the thousands of people in his state through the columns of the Weekly Market Bulletin. "Questions and Answers about Birds", "Request for a Bird Census", "Birds of West Virginia", "Pileated Woodpecker" and "Red-bellied Woodpecker" are successive articles in the Bulletins.

John B. Lewis, Lawrenceville, Virginia, recently became a member of the W. O. C. For years he was official observer for the Biological Survey at Eubank, Kentucky, his records there being used extensively by the Survey in determining migration routes.

GENERAL NOTES

THE GOLDEN PLOVER AT COLUMBUS, OHIO

The Golden Plover was seen this spring in large numbers for a short period of time in the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio. In Ohio, it is a very, very rare migrant. It confines its migration to the Mississippi Valley and the Atlantic coast, as a rule. Thus, we seldom have it in Ohio, which is several hundred miles from either place. In Dawson's "Birds of Ohio," Mr. Dawson comments upon the fact that it was once seen several years before his writing of that book. To my knowledge, it has not been seen in Ohio since that time until this spring. Although we have several distinguished bird observers who have been in the field observing birds for the last fifteen or twenty years, it has never been seen here before. So we must consider this record as a very rare accident.

It was first seen on April 18 by Mr. C. F. Walker and Mr. R. M. Geist at the junction of a small road with a well-traveled highway, about two miles southwest of Columbus and about one-half mile west of the Scioto River. There was a flock of twelve Golden Plovers there and no other birds. The majority of the flock were in winter plumage, but a few were changing to summer plumage, while several were in full summer plumage. They seemed to have come in for the night for they were running around a little pond which was hardly more than ten feet in length and about half as wide.