

heard occurred about 5 A. M. on July 21; the last "wicky wicky wee-sy" was noticed by a member of the family about July 25. In 1925 the last songs were heard July 23 and 29, respectively.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

**The Olive-sided Flycatcher in Oklahoma.**—On September 14, 1925, my husband and I saw our first *Nuttallornis borealis* in Oklahoma. It was perched high up on the dead branches of a large solitary cottonwood, across the road from woods bordering the South Canadian River in Cleveland County. The following day I observed another one by a small pond just west of Norman. It sat on the dead tops of trees and from there sallied out in pursuit of insects. The cottony tufts were visible twice; once after it had settled down from a flight, and once when it scratched itself. Later a second bird appeared.

On May 10, 1926, a fourth Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen on the very top of a dead tree near a stream south of Norman. On May 21, another was watched at the "Sloo," high on a dead tree; it caught a small insect and also a large dragonfly which it had some difficulty in swallowing. This was the only one of the five that was observed in dense woods.

None of these flycatchers uttered any note. Although the tufts were seen in only one instance, in every case the birds were watched at leisure through eight power glasses and the diagnosis was based upon their characteristic shape, the very dark sides, and the narrow median whitish or buffy line down the breast.

Mr. R. C. Tate, of Kenton, Oklahoma, writes me that he observed three Olive-sided Flycatchers on September 16, 1925. He was within ten feet of them, and obtained a good view of the white tufts.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

**Marsh Birds in Delaware County, Ohio.**—In the study of nesting birds we find that most species are confined to some particular nesting association. Since, with the development of agriculture in western Ohio, many of these associations have been destroyed, species that cannot adapt themselves to the changed conditions will be driven out. Some species are already rare or wanting. But one fortunate thing in the agricultural development is that it opens wide fields to the pioneers of other species that find ideal nesting associations in the open and drained country, such as the Meadowlark, Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Dickcissel and some other species that make the open country their habitat. The Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) is probably the most abundant nesting species in western Ohio, while the most abundant winter bird in Delaware County is the Horned Lark. The resident form of Horned Lark is *O. a. praticola*, but the numbers of this bird are greatly increased by the winter visitors.

There are but few nesting associations left for the marsh birds between the Ohio River and the marshes of Lake Erie. One ideal oasis is located on the southeast corporate line of Delaware—a cat-tail marsh of three or four acres, bordered by a thicket of shrubs and vines, with water throughout the year and a depth of black ooze that is a challenge to the explorer. The Florida Gallinule, the Sora and Virginia Rails, and the Least Bittern have been nesting there for a number of years, though but few people have ever seen them. They are adepts at keeping hid when visitors are about, and if the visitors are noisy they speak in whispers, if at all. Yet for all their secretive habits they are not difficult to observe and study if some precautions are taken. The best plan we have found

is to approach their domains with caution and try to make one's self an invisible or fixed part of the landscape. Thus, all unconscious of our presence, the Florida Gallinule, and the Sora and Virginia Rails have brought their broods of chicks within six feet.

We found seventeen species nesting in and on the border of this marsh in 1923. The Red-winged Blackbird was first in numbers and the Yellow Warbler second, the latter with six nests. But one pair of Long-billed Marsh Wrens was noted that year. There were three pairs of Florida Gallinules, and they seemed to have fixed boundaries. No trespassing on their territory by the other pairs was permitted. There was much trouble between the rails. The three pairs of Sora Rails kept to the east border and the two pairs of Virginia Rails to the west border. If a Virginia Rail was found near the east border he was immediately chased back with loud vociferations that we could not understand, but were well assured by the manner of voice that they were profane. The two pairs of Least Bitterns nested in the taller cat-tails near the center of the marsh, and seemed to be on friendly terms with both the Rails and Gallinules. A pair of Coots was on the marsh up to the 28th of May. We had some suspicions that they would nest, but on our next visit to the marsh, in the latter part of August, we could not find them.

The migration record for 1923 follows: The Florida Gallinule was first noted on April 19; the Virginia Rail on April 27; the Sora Rail on April 26; the Least Bittern on May 13; and the Long-billed Marsh Wren on May 6. The Bittern and Long-billed Marsh Wren were probably on the marsh at an earlier date. I was in Tuscarawas County from April 28 to May 5, 1923.—CHARLES R. WALLACE, *Delaware, Ohio*.

**Notes on an Injured Vesper Sparrow in Captivity.**—On about the first of August, 1924, while riding in an auto on some cut-over lands, I observed a bird in a very unusual action. It appeared as if it was tied to a certain place, such as is done at times with certain domestic animals when they are staked out to pasture. I thought at first that the bird might have flown against something in its effort to get away from the auto, so as soon as the auto was stopped I got out and caught the bird. It proved to be a Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus gramineus*).

Being interested in bird-banding, I banded it and let it go, but found that it had not gained any strength in flight. On re-examining the bird I found the cause of its being so weak in flight was that half of its right wing was missing. It could not fly over two feet. The bird was fortunate in not having been caught by some enemy, for the wing was entirely healed over. I removed the band and wrote to the Biological Survey about it. In reply, Dr. A. K. Fisher wrote that if I was not able to care for it, it had better be killed. My desire was to keep it and find out something about the bird, which I did.

The place in which the crippled Vesper Sparrow was at first kept was a common canary cage. Later in the fall a box was made, with the cage inserted in one end. Perches were put in both the box and cage, and were used very much by the bird. But for roosting at night it preferred the chaff, and deserted the perches with the exception of a few times.

One of the first things that I did, was to get the Vesper Sparrow to take insects from the hand, which it did on my first attempt. Grasshopper nymphs