

Louisiana Water-Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*).—Uncommon but found throughout the county in wet woods. The nest is very hard to find, and I have no record of one. The song is different from that of the Bass Lake birds in that it is not one continuous warble but is separated into three parts—"chea-chea-chauncer-van-tweer".

Maryland Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas trichas*).—A common inhabitant of wet meadows and swamps. The nest is very hard to find.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens virens*).—I have found but three nesting pairs in the county in fifteen years of observation.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*).—In general scarce, but common in favorable localities. Being a rather quiet and retiring bird during the breeding season, their presence is commonly overlooked. They are found in heavy timber where there is a dense growth of young trees. A nest found June 11, 1924, in a three to five year old maple, two feet up, in a grove of small maples, near the edge of a large wood, contained four fresh eggs. The female disclosed the proximity of her nest by her call note of alarm. Lying down on the ground beneath the lowest leaves, I quickly spied the nest about twenty-five feet away.

Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*).—Common but not as numerous as the Ovenbird. They nest in open woods of small timber. The nest is often placed in a small dead tree. In fact, one-half of the nests found of this species by myself have been so placed. Fresh eggs may be found by June 1.

For those who are not familiar with the location of Geauga County, a brief description is here given. The county is hilly (the "Berkshires" of Ohio) with an elevation of 1320 feet above sea level, and 700 feet above Cleveland. The county seat is Chardon, thirty miles east of Cleveland and fifteen miles from Lake Erie. Considerable timber remains. Very heavy snows occur in winter. The making of maple syrup is an important springtime industry.—LYLE MILLER. *Sharline, Ohio.*

The Mockingbird Breeds in Iowa.—As a rule ornithologists have not heretofore regarded Iowa as being situated within the breeding range of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*). It seems, however, that the range of this bird is gradually extending northward. Keokuk County, the scene of my observations, is located in the third tier of counties from the south line of the state, and Sigourney, the county seat, is situated about fifty miles north from the northern boundary of Missouri.

In the autumn of 1914, a competent observer informed me that a pair of Mockingbirds had that season made their nest in an orchard near Martinsburg in the southern part of this country. I was unable to learn anything further of this bird's presence here until the season of 1926, when a man who had formerly lived in Missouri and was quite familiar with the Mockingbird, reported a pair as nesting near South English in the northern part of this county. On April 24, 1927, I saw one of these birds near the western limits of this city. Owing to the large amount of clear white upon its wings and the absence of the brown, I took this to be a male. Subsequent visits at or near the place failed to disclose any further trace of it. On April 28, 1928, Mr. J. B. Slate saw one of these birds near South English, but careful search made at and near the same place later likewise failed to show anything further of it.

On May 14, 1929, I saw one of these birds four blocks from the County Court House in Sigourney. It appeared to be associated with some pigeons for

a few moments, then disappeared among the shrubbery and was not seen at this place again. On the evening of July 18, Mr. Slate informed me that, a few hours before, he had seen a Mockingbird alight upon the telephone wires by the side of State Primary Road No. 2, seven miles west from here. That being near an ideal locality for these birds, and considering the time of year, it certainly indicated that a nest might be found near there. We decided at once to go back there in the near future to make an investigation.

The evening of July 22 found us motoring toward the spot. When we arrived near, we noticed one Mockingbird again on the wires. It was evidently the male, and flew in the opposite direction from the one in which we were going. After moving ahead about 200 yards we stopped, and as we were getting out of the car a second bird also alighted upon the wires directly opposite us, and she held a grasshopper in her bill. This was certainly getting interesting! Our search was evidently going to be short. She eyed us curiously for a while. Although a thousand or more cars passed this place every twenty-four hours, this one had stopped dead still. It seemed to puzzle her. After considering us for a few moments she flew to a mullen stalk about 100 feet away, then back to another point on the wires.

In the meantime, we had noticed a scraggy bush on a high bank by the fence on the opposite side of the road, and directly under the gang of telephone wires. This bush held the nest, which was about four feet from the ground and could plainly be seen about 100 feet away. After she had decided that our mission was of a peaceful nature she flew to the nest and dropped the "hopper" into one of the open mouths which instantly darted up to meet her. During the hour which we spent there she skirmished around in every direction and brought a bug or grasshopper to her hungry family every minute or two. Several times she flew out in the vicinity where we had seen her mate, but he did not return with her.

There were larger and much denser thorn bushes near by, and brush thickets and woods not far away, but for some reason known to the birds they chose the exposed place where automobiles and other vehicles passed within fifteen or twenty feet every few seconds. The fact that many of these vehicles also raised great clouds of dust and in the night time threw a glare of their headlights full upon the nest, likewise did not deter the birds from choosing this spot for their home. Undoubtedly, a nest thus placed is less likely to be discovered and robbed by birds of prey or marauding animals than one placed in a forest or thicket.

A trip to the nest on the morning of July 28 indicated that the young birds had evidently just left the nest and were hidden in the grass. The mother bird was greatly excited. She hopped and danced about on the wires and repeatedly darted down to within a few feet of the car windows, at a small dog which she had spied inside, scolding him all the time and calling him all kinds of uncomplimentary names. On the evening of the next day, we were back again and now found several of the young birds twenty or twenty-five feet up in an elm tree about 150 yards from the nest. Here the mother was bringing beetles, crickets, and grasshoppers as before. The wing and tail feathers of the young birds were, however, in such an undeveloped condition that it seemed they must have covered the intervening distance, which is open pasture land, mostly on foot. The tree where they were found is partly festooned with vines and by

means of these the birds had no doubt attained their altitude. During all the visits we made, we saw very little of the male bird. He brought no food to the young and owing to the lateness of the season we did not hear his wonderful song.

The Mockingbird has been seen as far north as Sioux City, and a nest was found in Polk County, Iowa, between Valley Junction and Des Moines in June, 1929. I believe, if this bird is not known to nest in other localities of southern Iowa, it is probable that it does and this State may claim the Mockingbird as one of its regular avian summer residents, though rare as yet.—E. D. NAUMAN, *Sigourney, Iowa*.

Two Notable Minnesota Duck Records.—In a list of the birds observed during the period between May 15 and June 1, 1929, which was spent with the water birds in western Minnesota, is included the European Baldpate (*Mareca penelope*) and the Fulvous Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna fulva*). First state records for these species cannot be claimed, as the specimens were not collected, but the positiveness with which the identifications were made prompts the publication of the records as a matter of general interest.

A pair of Fulvous Tree Ducks were seen on a small, reedy lake near Arco, Lincoln County, in the southwestern corner of the state, on May 24. They were first observed resting on a muskrat house some 200 yards from shore, along with a number of individuals of nine other species of ducks. Specimens of this species had been observed in several of the eastern zoological gardens during the previous winter, and the birds were recognized instantly. The southwestern range of the bird being known, however, it was with some hesitation that the first impressions were accepted, and a half hour was spent in studying the birds with a pair of 16x glasses mounted on a light metal tripod which were carried as an aid in sketching. During this half hour of close scrutiny, several sketches of the birds were made, indicating the color and such positive field marks as the bright cinnamon-brown color, the long goose-like legs, the black stripe down the back of the neck, and the prominent light edgings on the side feathers, which were clearly distinguished. After a time the birds left the muskrat house and fed in the shallow, open water between the patches of bulrushes. It was observed that in feeding they dived like the Lesser Scaup Duck, showing the large legs and feet. They remained under from ten to fifteen seconds, then came up again almost in the same spot, after the manner of Coots. The other ducks gave every indication of nesting, and the lake was thoroughly examined several times during the next few days, but the birds had apparently moved on. The unusualness of this record leads one to suspect that these birds might have been escapes from some aviary, and, if this is the case, information regarding it would be welcomed.

On June 5 a lone male European Baldpate was found on Twin Lakes, Kittson County, in the northwestern corner of the state. It was in the company of a number of our common shallow water ducks that were breeding in this large, reed-grown lake. A view of it was obtained with the 16x glasses and a sketch made indicating the colors. The reddish head and the white flank, the latter like our own Baldpate, were very prominent, as was the pale buffy stripe over the top of the head. An attempt was made to approach it, but it was the first bird to fly, and, circling high, disappeared west over the other lake.—W. J. BRECKENRIDGE, *Museum of Natural History, Univ. of Minn., Minneapolis, Minn.*