

The Lark Sparrow Nesting in Schuyler County, Illinois.—While studying the nesting habits of birds during the past summer (1929), a nest of the Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*) was brought to my attention. This nest was located on June 20, by Earl Ward, a farmer, who lives four miles southwest of Pleasant View, Illinois. The nest was found in a corn field, about 150 yards from the barn and 100 yards from an adjoining clover field. It was placed in a small depression at the base of a hill of corn, and was protected from view by a smartweed. One could approach to within six or eight feet of the nest and the old bird would sit perfectly quiet. A visit to the nest on July 15 revealed that it had been abandoned. At this time the smartweed was cut aside and a photograph made. There are comparatively few birds that nest in the corn field, and perhaps this is not a common nesting site for the Lark Sparrow.—R. O. MALCOMSON, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

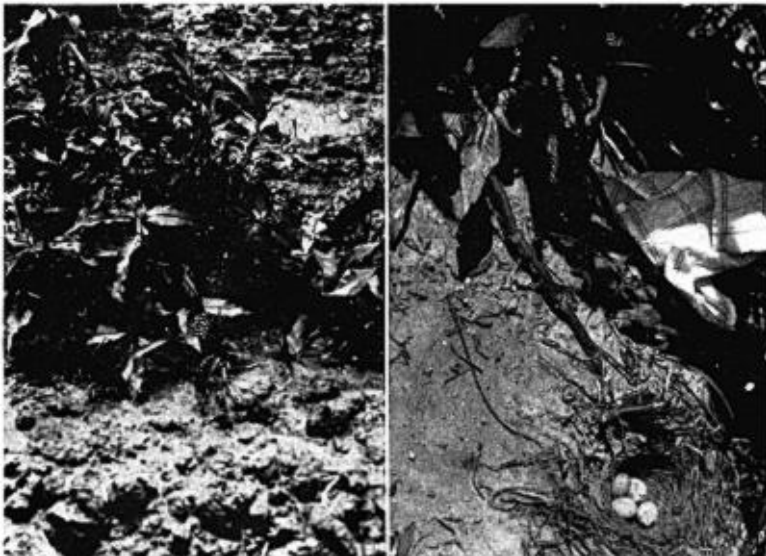


FIG. 9. Nest of the Lark Sparrow in a corn field, concealed (left), and exposed (right).

The Fall Migration at Cleveland's Public Square.—The Public Square in Cleveland consists of four sections with small patches of grass containing a few shrubs, small plane trees and flower beds, hemmed in by busy streets and tall buildings. Each of the sections is crossed by sidewalks which bear a heavy pedestrian traffic.

The normal bird life of the Square consists of a large flock of pigeons. As an adjunct to this flock there are many English Sparrows, which live upon the leavings from the pigeons' table. In recent years the Starlings have come to use the Square as a roosting place in winter, but are usually lacking during the day and all summer.

All this does not seem to portray a place which would be attractive to native wild birds, even as a stopping place in migrations, but between September 6 and December 5, 1929, a period of just three months, I was fortunate enough to identify twenty-one species, as follows:

Species	First Record	Last Record	No. of Days Seen	Largest No. in One Day
Herring Gull	Nov. 8		1	1
Sparrow Hawk	Sept. 7	Nov. 7	6	2
Least Flycatcher	Sept. 7		1	1
White-crowned Sparrow	Oct. 2	Oct. 16	11	4
White-throated Sparrow	Sept. 16	Nov. 25	52	23
Tree Sparrow	Nov. 6	Nov. 20	10	1
Slate-colored Junco	Oct. 4		1	1
Song Sparrow	Sept. 30	Dec. 5	36	2
Lincoln Sparrow	Sept. 18	Oct. 8	15	3
Swamp Sparrow	Oct. 1	Nov. 15	28	2
Tennessee Warbler	Oct. 2		1	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	Oct. 8		1	1
Blackpoll Warbler	Sept. 30	Oct. 4	4	2
Palm Warbler	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	2	1
Northern Yellowthroat	Sept. 6	Oct. 3	15	3
Catbird	Oct. 2	Oct. 7	4	1
Winter Wren	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	7	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Oct. 14	Oct. 25	3	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oct. 2	Oct. 15	5	1
Olive-backed Thrush	Oct. 2		1	1
Hermit Thrush	Oct. 7		1	1

At least one visit was made every day in this period, with the exception of Sundays, of which there were thirteen, and three other days. There were only seven days on which no uncommon birds were found and six of these were in the last week, following cold weather and a heavy snow storm.

One of the most interesting features observed was the change in temperament which occurred in a number of species soon after their arrival. The most outstanding example of this change was the Winter Wren, apparently one of the most timid birds once its curiosity is satisfied, which fed in the grass not two feet from a dozen watchers, and allowed a man to reach down and pick it up. When the bird was replaced on the ground it hopped a few feet away and resumed its feeding, although it was careful not to allow a repetition of the incident. Others, especially the White-throated Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows, soon became quite fearless and not only held their own against the English Sparrows, which bullied them at first, but finally became the undisputed masters of their particular grass plots or shrubs. This attribute of fearlessness made the birds much easier to study, particularly in the case of the more obscurely marked species, such as the Lincoln's Sparrows and Blackpoll Warblers, both of which permitted approach within three or four feet without more than a casual interest in the observer. All of the birds seemed to have full use of their faculties and apparently were not injured or disabled in any way.

Of the twenty-one species observed, two may be expected to appear at intervals throughout the winter, the Sparrow Hawk, which winters about the cornices of office buildings in the downtown section of the city, and the Herring Gull, which frequently flies low over the Square on foraging trips along the nearby Guyahoga River, and from Lake Erie which is about a half mile north of the Square. The other nineteen species evidently occurred strictly as migrants. The

largest number of species seen in one day occurred on October 2, a cold, cloudy day with a gale blowing in from the lake, when eleven species, totalling thirty-two or more individuals, were found. The close proximity of the Lake is the probable answer to the question of such unexpected luck at bird study in this place. In the spring migration, when so many birds were not seen, they probably start their flight across the Lake from a point inland from the city, and pass over the Square while they are still fresh and strong. The sparrows and other granivorous species should be able to find plenty of crumbs and scraps of food, but it is a question just how much food is available to insectivorous birds in this grimy, noisy spot, where only oriental plane trees and willows have been able to survive the smoke and other impurities of the air.—WILLIAM H. WATTERSON, *Cleveland, Ohio.*

Intimate Nestings of the Brown Thrasher.—While myself and family were living on a farm near Thornburg, Iowa, some years ago, we had a thriving rose bush standing directly in front of the kitchen window and close up; so close in fact that some of the foliage and roses touched the glass. One season the Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) made their home in this rose bush. Their nest was twenty inches from the window glass. Just inside the window stood a sofa upon which our little girl, about three years old, was playing and frolicking around a good share of the time. This did not disturb the birds in the least. And what glorious floods of melody, chanting, and advice the male bird used to give us from the top of a tree near by!

But, alas, during the time the birds were incubating a fearful wind and rain storm came and whipped the rose bush about so badly that the nest was blown out and the broken eggs scattered over the ground. Their next and successful attempt was in an Osage hedge fence forty feet from the front door.

More recently a pair of Brown Thrashers made their nest in some grape vines on top of the garden fence near our residence in the city. A public alley, frequented by autos and other vehicles as well as by pedestrians and dogs, passed one side of this fence. Near the other side was a private walk over which members of the family passed many times each day. Yet the birds successfully raised a brood of three young at this place.—E. D. NAUMAN, *Sigourney, Iowa.*

Canada Geese Review a Parade of Ducks.—Mrs. M. A. Hall has recently described to me the following interesting observation: "On January 26, 1929, I witnessed from my hunting blind a very remarkable performance, participated in by Canada Geese and several species of wild ducks. My blind is on the point at the east side of John's cove, on the Gulf of Mexico shore about a mile east of Wakulla Beach, Florida.

"It had been foggy all forenoon and I was waiting in the blind for the geese to come in to the marshes on the tide. About 3 P. M. the fog lifted and I saw directly opposite me across the little channel a single file of between 250 and 300 Canada Geese. These geese were all facing my way, heads up and not feeding. In a few minutes ducks began to come in on the tide between me and the geese. They were not feeding, merely swimming and drifting. There were several species of ducks—some 300 Mallards and Black Ducks, also Redheads, Canvasbacks, Baldpates, Blue-winged Teal, Scaups, and Mergansers. Besides these there were about a dozen ducks that I took to be Old Squaws.