

mature birds, at the above lake, where the birds were no doubt gathering for the fall migration.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

A Virginia Rail Spends a Day in the City.—On June 7, 1930, my neighbor called me to see a strange bird in her clump of lilac bushes. I recognized it as one of the rails. My first thought was that the bird was injured or it would not have been there. I tried to catch it, but it eluded me so completely that I failed to find it though I was confident it had not left the bushes. I retired to my dining room window, and soon I saw it walking about. Again I tried to catch it and failed. I placed a shallow pan of water at the edge of the bushes. It was not long till the bird came and waded around in the water. At noon we surprised the bird in the open, and were able to guide it into the garage, where it demonstrated that it could fly perfectly well. I caught it and put it in a small cage. With my friend, Mrs. W. J. Armour, I studied it carefully and identified it as a Virginia Rail (*Rallus l. limicola*). Satisfied about its identity, I gently placed the cage at the edge of the bushes, and it stepped out very leisurely and went back into the shadows. Often it came and waded in the pan of water. As the sun was setting it came out into the patch of sunlight, put its head under its wing and went to sleep. It was still there when it was most too dark to see well. The next morning it was gone, after its day of rest in the city.—MRS. MARIE DALES, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

The Roosting-place of Fledged House Wrens.—What becomes of the young House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) after they have left the nest has always been a perplexing question about our home, for after the first day they can be found nowhere in the vicinity. In 1930, however, we had the pleasure of having them around for four days after leaving the nest, and they were the source of much amusement. Just before dusk every evening the parent birds would work frantically to get the young ones into a then abandoned Robin's nest in an apple tree, seventy-five feet distant from their own nest box and twenty feet from the ground. But what a time they had. After much arguing and scolding, they would succeed in getting two or three of the six young into the nest, and would dart after the remaining ones, only to find upon their return that the first group had departed into a neighboring cherry tree. This, of course, called for more scolding and coaxing. They used the Robin's nest for four nights; the fifth day they vanished, and were never seen about the premises again.—CARL W. RAHE, *Cleveland, Ohio.*

An Icebound Woodpecker.—The morning of January 21, 1927, dawned bright and cold, after an almost night-long seige of rain, sleet, and snow. Directly after sunup I hastened out to run a short trapline, and while hurrying through a woods I saw, scurrying on the ground ahead of me, a male Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), apparently injured. He could race rapidly, nevertheless, and would often ascend a tree trunk for a few feet, but would always drop off and resume the race. He was an expert at dodging and I experienced no little difficulty in capturing him, part of my inability to get him in hand being due to the fact that I feared trampling him as he dodged here and there. Imagine my surprise when I found that the tips of his wings, where they met over the base of the tail, were securely held together by a piece of ice! Flight was entirely out of the question. I removed the ice that bound him, but for a moment he remained quiet in my hands, not realizing, probably, that he was free, then with a cry he left me, flying heavily in a crooked, wavering flight. He was im-

mediately set upon by some of his family, many of whom had been crying loudly all the while. Perhaps they were congratulating him upon his escape, but it seemed to me that they were scolding him soundly for having been foolish enough to have spent a night, such as the last had been, on the *outside* of a tree!
GRANT HENDERSON, *Greensburg, Ind.*

Some Bird Records for South Dakota.—During a recent trip to South Dakota in company with Mr. Lewis Knowles, of the Biological Survey, a number of birds were observed which seem to be sufficiently uncommon in that state to warrant reporting them in the WILSON BULLETIN.

On July 29, 1931, one adult male Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) was observed in a small flock of Mallards at a shallow lake about five miles northeast of Mound City, Campbell County. Over and Thoms, in their "Birds of South Dakota", regard this as a "straggler" and report one collected in Miner County in 1896.

At Long Lake, McPherson County, on this same day I approached within twelve yards of three Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus*). These birds were feeding in company with a small flock of Pectoral, Baird's, and Least Sandpipers, Western Willets, and Lesser Yellow-legs. These birds were probably all early migrants from the far north.

Also on this same day, in northern McPherson County about eight miles southeast of Ashley, North Dakota, I collected an adult male, a female, and a juvenile Bendire's Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*) while they were feeding on sunflower seeds. These specimens were examined by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, of the Biological Survey. They represent a subspecies new to South Dakota. In the Survey collection is another specimen of this subspecies, a male, collected by Merritt Cary at Elk Mountain, South Dakota, October 16, 1903, which bears U. S. N. M. number 193289.

Another adult male *Loxia curvirostra* (subsp.?) was observed the next day (July 30) about twenty miles north of Mitchell. This individual was also feasting on the seeds of sunflower. Over and Thoms report that *Loxia c. pusilla* "has been taken in the eastern part of the state as a migrant", but seem to regard it as being quite uncommon. These new and out of season records should, therefore, be of interest. Because of South Dakota's geographical position it is not surprising to find both races of Red Crossbills occurring there.

About five miles northeast of Eureka, McPherson County, one adult female Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdi*) was collected on July 29, 1931. This species is a common migrant in South Dakota, but is not regarded as a summer visitor there.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

The American Egret in Manistee County, Michigan.—On August 7, 1930, I observed a pair of American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) feeding along the marshy border of Arcadia Lake on the northern border of Manistee County, Michigan. This lake had held my attention for several days previous to this date, since it was richer in bird life than any I had seen heretofore in any part of Michigan. Coots, Pied-billed Grebes, and various ducks were the chief tenants, but Great Blue and Little Green Herons, both species of bittern, Greater Yellowlegs, and Solitary Sandpipers were also abundant.

The egrets did not commonly associate with the other birds but were seldom seen apart from one another. Occasionally, however, they were observed feeding in the company of a Great Blue Heron.