

Worthington's Marsh Wren in the Vicinity of Savannah, Georgia.—Wheeler's paper on Marian's Marsh Wren in the December, 1931, issue of the WILSON BULLETIN makes it seem desirable to mention some facts about the local race of the Long-billed Marsh Wren breeding in this section.

Worthington's Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris griseus*) is one of the common birds near the Georgia-South Carolina line, on the coast and in its particular habitat. The type locality of the subspecies is given in the A. O. U. Check-List as Sapela Island (Georgia) some forty or more miles to the southward. To list the localities frequented by this species during the summer would take up too much space here, but along the Savannah River I have found it from the salt marshes on the coast to about two miles west of Savannah—a distance of about seventeen miles inland from the outer islands. This includes several miles of territory designated by Wayne (Birds of South Carolina) as the River Rice Fields. Here we find such fresh-water plants as the Pickerelweed (*Pontederia*), Arrowhead (*Sagittaria*) and various others. The birds nest here in tall reeds or marsh grass along the river banks, and the little drains and canals of the abandoned rice fields. The river water is either fresh or brackish, according as to the river is high or low.

Farther toward the coast they live and nest in high grass at the edges of the many waterways, as well as in the salt and brackish ponds of the coastal islands. I have never found one of their nests in a tree, and never in any place not directly over muddy shores or over water. The usual globular nest is made, and the materials vary according to the locality and convenience. Near the city docks fragments of cotton that have drifted across the river are woven into the nest with other suitable material.

The nesting time varies greatly, and if a second brood is raised, the birds must move well away from the first nesting site. I have found eggs in late April, and from then until July 24, though in different years. One colony located conveniently (for observation) in 1925 had many eggs through June and then an occasional set until late July. About three nests in eight have five eggs; that is one *occupied* nest, for many of the so-called "bachelor" nests are always to be found. I have not found a set that I believed to be complete with less than four eggs. The eggs are often covered with a soft cushion, and after incubation is started this cushion is usually drawn into the opening when the bird is absent.

It is not usual to find the eggs muddy, as with the clapper rails, the gallinules, and the seaside sparrows nesting in the same muddy marsh, which seems to indicate that the wrens do not descend to the mud, but travel along the grass stems and drifted sedge in search of food and nesting material.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *Savannah, Ga.*

A Starling Roost in the Chicago Area.—The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is soon to be one of the common birds of the Middle West, if their rapid spread in the Chicago area is any indication. The first large roost in the region, so far as I know, is one at Homewood, Illinois. Mr. C. J. Albrecht reported to me that flock after flock of Starlings passed his house each evening, enroute to their resting places. On August 17, I saw a few of the birds, but was too late to witness the big flight, so we walked a couple of hundred yards from Mr. Albrecht's home, to that of Mr. Charles Harmke. The chatter of congregated birds was evident when we were 100 yards away, and we found great numbers of Starlings, Robins,

Grackles, English Sparrows, and a few Purple Martins swarming into the box-elders, cottonwoods, willows, and maples. Whenever we clapped our hands the birds would rise in flocks of twenty to one hundred. To be conservative, we estimated that there were 1,000 Starlings, but there were probably a great many more. Mr. Harmke said that the birds had been using the trees for their roosts for three years, and were such a nuisance with their filth that he believed he would destroy the trees.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago, Ill.*

A Large Fall Migration of the White Pelican.—While riding around the south side of Crystal Lake, Dakota County, Nebraska, about 3:00 P. M. on October 4, 1931, my attention was called to a large flock of birds. At first we were undecided as to what they were. They were circling slowly, and as they came closer we decided that they were pelicans, and the size of the flock seemed to indicate the largest one of migrating pelicans that we had ever noticed.

There were four in the party and we tried counting them to form an estimate. They were widely scattered and we could count the small detached bunches. The count ranged from 700 to 1,200, and we compromised at 900. This flock was followed by several others. The one immediately following contained about half as many and four others followed in the next hour and a half, numbering from about 150 to 400. They were all flying slowly to the southeast, down the Missouri River Valley.

After watching these birds for some time we drove to the ranch house of Elmer Ebel, who has lived on this edge of the lake for thirty-three years, and is a close observer of waterfowl, being a conservationist as well as a hunter. He stated that this migration is not uncommon, in fact the pelicans are the first of the migrating birds to go south, and he has seen them in much greater numbers than on this occasion. The migration of these birds extends over a period of two weeks.

Mr. Ebel's father, the late Henry Ebel, lived on this land since 1868 and told the story that is also related by his son, of the pelicans alighting on this lake, spreading clear across it, and swimming along in one direction to some shallow place and apparently driving the fish to the shore, where they scooped them up with their great bills.

One week later, on October 11, 1931, Mr. Ebel reported a flock of eighteen pelicans resting on a sand-bar in the Missouri River, which is but a mile and a half distant from Crystal Lake.—W. R. FELTON, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

Notes on the Nesting of the Bronzed Grackle and Say's Phoebe.—In July, 1929, I watched several pairs of Bronzed Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) attending to nesting duties, at Scranton, in southwestern North Dakota. The birds had built their nests on the steel beams inside of a large coal briquet plant, which was not in operation at the time. The grackles seemed much at home and resented our intrusion.

Several years ago I found the nest of a Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis sayus*), at Tuttle, South Dakota, about eighteen miles west of the Missouri River and near the North Dakota boundary line. The nest was placed over a window in an abandoned railroad station and contained four eggs at the time. Dr. W. J. Hoffman, Acting Surgeon, U. S. Army, observed a few Say's Phoebes in this region in 1873, while stationed at the Grand River Agency.—WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*