

Recent Bird Notes from Southern South Dakota.—On July 7, 1931, the writer had occasion to spend the day in Yankton County, South Dakota, a distance of about sixty-five miles northwest from Sioux City, Iowa. The following notes taken there are thought worthy of mention. A male Rocky Mountain Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus papago*) was seen carrying food, and was no doubt a breeding bird. This must be about the extreme eastern limit of this western grosbeak. The Western Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea interfusa*) was not uncommon in suitable habitats. Several Rock Wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*) were also seen and heard along the cliffs, on which hundreds of Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*) had plastered their nests. An interesting overlapping of breeding ranges was also found. The Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*) was found breeding, and the more western form, the Arctic Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus arcticus*), was also not uncommon. The call notes of the latter bird are very distinct from those of the eastern form. The Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) was found along the Missouri River bottoms, and on the uplands the families of the Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus* subsp.) were already forming into flocks of forty or fifty birds.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

A Large Flock of Wood Ibises in Harrison County, Iowa.—On the morning of September 9, 1931, while I was approaching the village of Mondamin, Harrison County, Iowa, from the south, I saw a flock of at least two hundred Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*), which had apparently just taken flight from along the Missouri River. The exact site where the birds were first seen was one-half mile from the village. They rose in two groups, which later joined to form the one large flock. As they wheeled about in great circles, rising apparently to gain the advantage of a strong wind, they made a spectacular and beautiful display, with brilliant white breasts flashing light in unison as the birds turned again and again. I had a splendid opportunity to observe them through glasses, and at reasonable range, and even tried to secure a photograph by getting into a position in advance of the flock, but in so doing the birds were lost from sight. They were last seen wheeling about very high in the air and traveling northeastward, about five miles northeast of Mondamin. I was surprised to encounter these birds, with which I have been familiar in Florida, under the circumstances mentioned. I believe this is the first Iowa record of the species.—WALLACE B. GRANGE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

White-breasted Nuthatches Occupy a Nest Box.—For the past twenty years I have been interested in attracting birds to nest boxes at my farm near Atlantic, Iowa. In that time Flickers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Screech Owls, Sparrow Hawks, Bluebirds, Chickadees, House Wrens and Purple Martins have reared their families in boxes which I have put up for them. In another location a pair of Crested Flycatchers did likewise. The past summer (1931) added another box nester to the list, the White-breasted Nuthatch, which is common in my grove.

The box used by the nuthatch was similar to those put up for woodpeckers, as described in the book, "Birds of the Wild", and was really intended for the Downy Woodpecker. The box was placed about ten feet from the ground and nailed to the side of an elm tree near the garage. The entrance hole was about an inch in diameter, and the cavity of the box was about four and one-half