

placed a few sticks to form a frail nest, which contained two white eggs, under a small overhanging tree, in the niche of the bank of a tiny stream. At New Vienna, in 1900, I found a Brown Thrasher's nest on the ground protected by a pile of osage-orange brush. In this section all of the early nestings of the Eastern Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. melodia*) and of the Red-eyed Towhee (*Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus*) are placed on the ground. The second nests of the season of the Eastern Song Sparrow are placed from two to ten feet up, in weeds, shrubs, and small trees. The Red-eyed Towhee most generally builds a couple of feet high in a shrub for its second nesting. An exception to this was the placing of a nest on a corn stalk where the leaf-blade joined the stalk, about three feet from the ground.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio.*

**A Flight of Franklin's Gulls in Northwestern Iowa.**—On September 17, 1931, I noticed about one hundred Franklin's Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) resting in a compact group on Medium Lake, just north of Emmetsburg, Palo Alto County, Iowa. This was at 9 A. M. They arose and seemed to leave the lake soon after. The rest of the day I spent looking over game range in Palo Alto, northwestern Kossuth, and eastern Emmet Counties. Over almost all this territory there was a continuous body of gulls, evidently feeding on some flying insect.

Until evening the birds were flying at heights of fifty to one hundred yards. Toward evening they gradually grew lower, until at 5 P. M. they were on or near the ground level. At the same time my car began to pass through insects. Evidently the insects themselves had changed the level of their flight. Samples were collected and submitted to Carl Drake, State Entomologist, for identification. Unfortunately the specimens were mashed in the mails, so that the species could not be determined. Dr. Drake wrote me they were flea-beetles of some kind. This flea-beetle was evidently the attraction for the gulls.

The flight of gulls was observed over an area covering a total of four townships in Palo Alto, five in Kossuth, and four in Emmet Counties, a total of thirteen townships. It may have been actually much larger. On the other hand, the gulls may have accidentally followed our route of travel, and thus not actually covered thirteen townships. The density is estimated to have ranged from one to two hundred gulls to forty acres. Assuming that it covered ten townships and that the density averaged two gulls to forty acres, the total number of gulls would have been about thirty to the section, 1,100 to the township, or 11,000 gulls on the observed area. The density probably averaged much more than two gulls to forty acres.

Frank Marnette of Arnold's Park, Kossuth County, Iowa, a competent observer, tells me that these inland flights of Franklin's Gulls are a regular autumnal phenomenon, but that in his county every individual returns each evening to Spirit Lake to roost.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Madison, Wis.*

**The Philadelphia Vireo Near Nashville, Tennessee**—On September 18, 1931, I was studying migrant warblers and vireos near my camp, Birds-I-View, some ten miles east of Nashville, Tennessee, when my attention was directed to the song of a bird about twenty feet away in an elm tree. Its notes were rather like those of a Red-eyed Vireo but more melodious, less continuous, and at times suggestive of the notes of the Purple Finch. Since vireos had practically ceased to sing I watched this bird very carefully as he moved sluggishly around just above my head. To my surprise there was a pale yellow color to the entire breast; and there were no wing bars as in the case of the White-eyed Vireo and

the Yellow-throated Vireo. Nor was it large enough for the Mountain Vireo. On consulting Chapman, I found that its markings, song, and habits corresponded exactly to those of the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*).

On September 19 it was near the same tree but did not sing. Mr. A. F. Ganier attempted to collect a similar bird at this spot on September 20, but it was lost in the rank weeds. Nearly a week later I tried to take a specimen of this bird some five hundred yards farther south but was unsuccessful. The first bird, I am satisfied, was the Philadelphia Vireo; but in the other three instances there was no song to confirm the markings. My feeling now is that this species is more often to be found than records show and next spring all suspicious vireos will be given careful scrutiny. Perhaps we can add other records to the lone record of Allison at Grand Junction, in west Tennessee, April 16, 1904.—GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, *Nashville, Tenn.*

**The 1931 Fall Migration at Cleveland's Public Square.**—This year's fall migration at the Public Square in Cleveland was not as productive in my observation as the past two years.

In the period from September 11 to December 28 I was successful in finding sixteen species of native birds. During this stretch of 108 days I visited the Square 83 days and found one or more birds on all but two days. The weather was uniformly favorable, with the temperature consistently above freezing, except for a brief cold snap with snow in the closing days of November. The temperature was frequently far above normal, reaching 63° on December 24, and nearly to that mark on several occasions. My records are as follows:

| <i>Species</i>                | <i>First Record</i> | <i>Last Record</i> | <i>No. of Days Seen</i> | <i>Largest No. in One Day</i> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sparrow Hawk.....             | Sept. 11            | Oct. 28            | 4                       | 1                             |
| Herring Gull.....             | Oct. 29             | Dec. 15            | 2                       | 7                             |
| Whip-poor-will.....           | Oct. 9              | .....              | 1                       | 1                             |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker..... | Sept. 28            | .....              | 1                       | 1                             |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet.....   | Oct. 9              | .....              | 1                       | 1                             |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....     | Sept. 28            | Sept. 30           | 2                       | 1                             |
| Magnolia Warbler.....         | Sept. 16            | .....              | 1                       | 1                             |
| Black-poll Warbler.....       | Sept. 12            | Sept. 17           | 3                       | 2                             |
| Northern Yellowthroat.....    | Sept. 16            | Sept. 21           | 4                       | 4                             |
| Redstart.....                 | Sept. 12            | .....              | 1                       | 1                             |
| Savannah Sparrow.....         | Sept. 16            | Sept. 17           | 2                       | 2                             |
| White-crowned Sparrow.....    | Oct. 7              | Nov. 17            | 13                      | 4                             |
| White-throated Sparrow.....   | Sept. 16            | Dec. 28            | 75                      | 14                            |
| Tree Sparrow.....             | Nov. 11             | Nov. 24            | 8                       | 1                             |
| Song Sparrow.....             | Sept. 21            | Dec. 11            | 37                      | 3                             |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....   | Sept. 16            | .....              | 1                       | 3                             |

Most of these visitors are becoming familiar to me at the Square, but several of them were newcomers, notably the Whip-poor-will, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Magnolia Warbler. The Whip-poor-will spent the day on the ledge of my office window, a windy day with the temperature around 55°. The bird showed no sign of injury, but seemed very weak. It exhibited no great fear of faces not more than a foot away on the other side of the window, rocking nervously when some one tapped on the glass. October 9 is some three weeks later than the usual time of departure for this species, and several cool days probably had made serious inroads on the bird's food supply. Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared together in the plane trees surrounding Tom Johnson's statue one day, all in the streaked plumage of the female or immature. White-throated Sparrows