

**Recent Changes in South Dakota Bird Life.**—Many South Dakota lakes are rather low at this time (1931), due to the dry summer of 1930. Other lakes are entirely dry and the effect on bird life is very noticeable. Lake Albert, in Kingsbury County, was formerly the home of a large colony of Double-crested Cormorants, but at present the lake is a huge flax field. The cormorant colony on Dry Lake, north of Lake Albert, is also gone, probably due to molestation. The remnants of the two colonies just mentioned selected a rocky island in nearby Lake Poinsett, and here several hundred birds are nesting. A fine colony of Western Grebes was, however, found on Dry Lake.

Roy Lake, northeast of the Waubay Lakes, was once the site of a fair-sized cormorant colony, but fishermen decided the birds were too fond of fish, and the colony was shot out during 1930. The remnants of this colony has evidently settled on Cattail Lake, near old Fort Sisseton, and has easily doubled the size of the old colony at this place.

The fine cormorant colony on South Waubay Lake is probably the largest colony left in the United States. This season Mr. Arthur Lundquist, of Webster, South Dakota, and the writer found nearly 700 nests on the two islands. The Ring-billed Gulls on the larger island seemed to be back in larger numbers, and several hundred nesting birds were seen. The large colony of Common Terns has, however, almost deserted this island, and less than a dozen pairs were there nesting this year (1931).

In general the water and shore birds are decreasing in this area. Duck nests were less numerous than usual this year. Holboell's and Eared Grebes seemed less numerous than in other years. Western Grebes appeared more abundant on Rush Lake, but this was no doubt due to the fact, that this species was not nesting on South Waubay Lake, or on other lakes and sloughs where it had formerly nested. The Western Grebes chose Rush Lake for a breeding ground this year and it appears that most of the grebes of this region have come to the above lake this summer.

Western Willets and Upland Plovers were not seen in the usual numbers, but the Marbled Godwit was apparently present in about its usual numbers. Clay-colored Sparrows were found nesting in several likely places. The Prairie Marsh Wren and the Short-billed Marsh Wren were seen in many marshy areas, the former being much the more common. A male Nelson's Sparrow, in breeding condition, was taken at Rush Lake, on June 7, 1931.—WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

**Woodcocks and Wood Ducks in Washington County, Iowa.**—While patrolling on Skunk River on July 14, 1932, my spaniel flushed a Woodcock within fifteen or twenty yards of me, and another not over that far from the first one. They flew not over fifty yards and lit near each other. I called the dog in because they acted as if they had young there, and backed up for fear the dog would catch their young. It was in large elm timber on low, wet bottom ground and with some heavy cover, near the county line between Washington and Keokuk Counties, Iowa.

I am a great lover of the woods and of all birds, have a good dog, and get great pleasure in walking along the creeks and rivers. However, this was the first time in fifty-one years here that I have seen a pair of Woodcocks at that time of the year. I can find some in October every year, on the bottom, in moist low