

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

Notes from Union County, South Dakota.—During the spring of 1934, several rather uncommon birds were seen in Union County, South Dakota. The Turkey Vulture was seen on one occasion near the Big Sioux River. The Red-bellied Woodpecker and the Prothonotary Warbler were also found in the same area. The most interesting find, however, was a Northern Parula Warbler. I believe that this is the first record of that species from this corner of South Dakota.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

The First Nesting Record of the Eastern Savannah Sparrow for West Virginia.—On May 26, 1934, I found the nest of an Eastern Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*) at Oglebay Park, which is about five miles from Wheeling, West Virginia. Previous to this time, although this species had been recorded at several places in West Virginia during the spring and summer seasons, there was no nesting record of it for this state. I believe this extends the breeding range of the bird several hundred miles farther southward. The field where I found the nest has an elevation of approximately 1,250 feet above sea level, and is one of the highest points in the immediate vicinity. Parts of the West Virginia Panhandle, which includes the region where the nest was found, are in the Upper Austral zone, while other parts are in the Transition zone. The nest contained five eggs, one of which was more brilliantly colored than the others. Photographs of the nest were made.—THOS. E. SHIELDS, *Wheeling, W. Va.*

Florida Gallinule in Lewis County, West Virginia.—In view of the fact that published records for the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*) in West Virginia are very scarce, the following observations may be of interest.

On July 24, 1934, while walking with a group of nature students along the West Fork of the Monongahela River, near Jackson's Mill, Lewis County, West Virginia, I noticed an unusual-looking bird entering a small patch of weeds on the bank of the river. We surrounded the patch, and succeeded in driving out an adult Florida Gallinule. The red frontal plate was very noticeable, and the red on the legs showed up plainly. The bird very quickly hid in a larger thicket, and we did not see it again at that time. Near the same place, on July 31, a Florida Gallinule, perhaps the same individual, was seen by another bird group. This time the bird was swimming, the red frontal plate serving to identify it. When we tried to get closer it dived, and we were unable to see it again.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

Ruffed Grouse and Hawk Survival.—The article "A Cross Country Hawk Census" by Margaret Morse Nice (WILSON BULLETIN, June, 1934) interested me. I spent the winter of 1897-98 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and the people out there were worrying about the extermination of Ruffed Grouse before the birds had even begun to be as wise and wary as they are here. They were so tame that I was told not to shoot until I saw them stretching their necks. This phase had been passed in Massachusetts fifty years ago. A sitting shot was a rarity even then, and now they are so wild and cunning in this district that after a veritable bombardment in October the farmers still complain about them eating the blossom buds on the apple trees.