

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.—TILOS. 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.

The Ruffed Grouse is often called "Fool Hen" in the Far West, and obviously there is a question of how near to extermination they came before all the fools were killed off. M. M. Nice says there are more hawks in England than in New England; but of course the English birds will be much wiser, and I think the danger of our hawks being exterminated must be very small. To me, a boy with a gun is at least as much a part of nature as is a hawk. "So careful of the type she seems, so careless of the single life."—WILLIAM P. HAINSWORTH, *North Andover, Mass.*

Baird's Sparrow at Home.—Mr. E. T. Judd's south pasture in the Big Coulee near Cando, Towner County, North Dakota, furnished an ideal summer home for the rather poorly known Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdi*). It was here in June, 1934, that the writer found a fine colony of these sparrows and decided that there were no less than twenty-five pairs of them living in close harmony with their near neighbors. These neighbors consisted of dozens of pairs of Savannah Sparrows, Clay-colored Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Greater Prairie Chickens, and several species of ducks. This same pasture is reported to be also the home of that most retiring of prairie birds, the Sprague's Pipit. However, I had come too early to the Cando region and the pipits, if they had arrived, were not heard singing, and thus were not added to the bird list. Baird's Sparrow is an interesting species, because of the long period of time that it remained little known. This was mainly due to its close likeness in flight, appearance, and nesting habits to the Savannah Sparrow. The song is quite distinctive, but out on the prairie there are many birds singing at once and it could easily remain undistinguished. I found one unfinished nest and knew that the birds were actually nesting in this spot. A hurried vacation found me leaving Mr. Judd's kind hospitality and his big south pasture, where one could well spend weeks observing the many species of prairie birds.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

The Western Blue Grosbeak in Iowa.—During the past two years I have seen the Western Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea interfusa*) on three or four occasions near Sioux City, Iowa. However, a specimen record was never made during this time. On June 23, 1934, I found a pair of the grosbeaks two and one-half miles north of Sioux City on the J. W. and J. A. Sturtevant farm, which is located on the Big Sioux River, in Plymouth County, Iowa. The birds were located in a scattered group of bur oak trees, which is their favorite habitat. I disliked to collect the bird so late in the season, and yet I wanted to establish the status of the species in Iowa, and therefore took only the male bird. According to Mr. Philip A. DuMont, no specimens have ever been taken in Iowa. I have made many early morning trips in search of the Blue Grosbeak in Iowa, and feel that such trips will in the future bring to light the summer residence of two other species of western birds. These are the Lazuli Bunting, of which I have one sight record, and the Black-headed Grosbeak. Both of these birds have been found breeding in Yankton County, South Dakota, which is about fifty miles from Sioux City, and since we have the identical type of habitat here at Sioux City, I think the birds eventually will be found breeding in northwestern Iowa.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

Nesting of the Kentucky Warbler in Butler County, Ohio.—For years I have suspected the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) as nesting in Butler County, for on different occasions I have seen these birds during the breeding