

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

season. Determined to find a nest of this species, Frank Harbaum and myself started on the morning of May 27, 1934, to a large woods north of Oxford. On entering this locality we observed a pair of Kentucky Warblers, but no nest was found. After about five hours of watching and walking, a female was flushed from its nest on the ground. We observed this female bird for several minutes with our glasses. The male bird was not seen. The nest was placed in a clump of leaves at the base of a small elm sapling. The nest was a bulky affair. The outside was composed of leaves and small weed stems and it was lined with horse hair. It contained two warbler eggs and one egg of the Cowbird. This warbler is a master at concealing its nest, which fact I think accounts for their nests never before having been found in this county.—CLARK K. LLOYD, *Oxford, Ohio*.

Some Bird Observations in Howard County, Missouri.—Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*). At about four o'clock on May 1, 1933, a Black Rail was captured alive on the Central College campus, by Miss Seria Rogers. This represents the third record of this species in Missouri, and the only record since 1907. The fact that it was found in such an unusual place as a college campus is partly explained by the fact that on the preceding day there had been a severe wind storm, while at noon on May 1 there was a hard hail storm; however, the bird seemed in perfect condition. I had the pleasure of keeping it over night and during that time it seemed unusually tame. The next day it was sent to the University of Iowa, where it was mounted for the Central College Museum.

Eastern Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria solitaria*). On July 8, 1932, while going around a lake about three miles from Fayette, Mr. Tom Baskett and I were surprised to notice a Solitary Sandpiper a few feet in front of us. On July 15, we again returned to observe four Solitary Sandpipers, and on July 16, one male was taken. They were probably exceptionally early migrants.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea* subsp.). On May 14, 1932, Mr. Baskett and I observed a male Blue Grosbeak. So far as we have been able to determine, this represents the first record for this species in Howard County. On August 8, 1932, Mr. Baskett and I found a nest of this species, containing well advanced young. The nest was located in a sapling elm, about fifteen feet above the ground.

I first observed this species in 1933, on May 7, and on the following July 13 I found two Blue Grosbeak nests. One contained three grosbeak eggs and one egg of the Cowbird, the other four grosbeak eggs. On July 14, I again observed the nests, but their contents remained the same as on the preceding day. On this date, however, I destroyed the Cowbird's egg in order to keep the young Cowbird from crowding the young grosbeaks out of the nest when the eggs hatched. I again returned on July 17 to find that the nest that had contained the Cowbird egg on the 13th then contained two young grosbeaks and an unhatched egg, while the other nest was occupied by only three young grosbeaks, the other young one being found dead on the ground under the nest. I also found another nest on July 17, that contained young almost ready to fly. On July 20 the egg in the first nest was still unhatched, but the other two young were very healthy and the young had left the other two nests. All three nests were within an eighth of a mile of each other, along a roadside. Although all three nests found in 1933 were fairly close together, the number of Blue Grosbeaks is increasing rapidly