

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

throughout this vicinity. If this species keeps increasing at its present rate, it will not be long before it may be considered as a common summer resident here. These data should go far in proving the rapid spread of this species northward.—
WILLIAM JENNER, *Fayette, Mo.*

Eastern Goshawk Flights in West Virginia.—One of the interesting features of *Bird-Lore's* Christmas Bird Census for 1933 (*Bird-Lore*, Jan.-Feb., 1934) was the scarcity of observations of the Eastern Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*). In view of the fact that the seven-year cycle since the great goshawk flight of 1926-27 was completed during the 1933-34 season, this seemed noteworthy, and it may be of interest to record that West Virginia did have an extended goshawk flight during the latter season.

For purposes of comparison, I quote from my 1926-27 notes on this species:

"First observed on November 2, 1926, when a neighbor woman shot a female goshawk while it was raiding her flock of chickens. During November and December, 1926, seven dead specimens came under my observation, all taken in Upshur County, West Virginia. I observed the species almost every day, specimens being taken in Lewis, Harrison, Barbour, and Monongalia Counties, and seen in a number of others. Three were captured alive by state trappers in pole traps at French Creek. One individual attacked a full-grown Wild Turkey at the State Game Farm at French Creek. The species was common throughout the winter, and was last seen on March 20, 1927."

Notes for 1933-34 summarize as follows:

"First observed near top of Cranberry Mountain, Pocahontas County, October 15, 1933. Two individuals seen that day, one flying over Big Glade (*WILSON BULLETIN*, March, 1934, page 65). One seen at French Creek, Upshur County, October 17. A dead specimen brought in by one of my students on October 20. Fairly common in Upshur County during November and December. Individuals seen in Barbour and Harrison Counties. Species not seen during January and February, but an individual observed March 7, at French Creek. Seen in Upshur County, March 9, 13, 14, 16, 20, 23, and 29, and April 2; the latter being last one seen."

From these notes it may be seen that during the normal winter of 1926-27 the birds wintered in Central West Virginia, but that during the excessively cold 1933-34 winter they moved out, presumably farther south, since they reappeared in March. Not nearly so many individuals were seen during the latter flight as during the former, nor were so many poultry depredations reported. There was, however, a large 1933-34 flight in Central West Virginia, more individuals being seen than in all the intervening years since 1926-27.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

Winter Birds of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.—During February of 1934, Mr. Charles F. Walker and the writer spent several days (February 12 to 16) in field work along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As little has been recorded of the birds of southern Mississippi, a summary is made of the forms observed. The daily lists of species were 50, 58, 61, 66, and 60. The total list of species was 98, and the total number of individuals counted was 10,701.

Because of other field work being done, it seems certain that many species present were missed. However, the numbers listed probably give a fair picture of the relative abundance of most of the species observed. From headquarters at a camp in the long-leaf pine woods, six miles north of Biloxi, trips were made