

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

The Starling in Southeastern South Dakota.—The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) has been reported from all but three counties in Iowa and is now starting to invade Nebraska and South Dakota. Mr. Arthur Lundquist of Webster, South Dakota, reported the Starling in Day County, South Dakota (WILSON BULLETIN, XLVI, p. 62, March, 1934) which is in the extreme northeastern part of the state. On Christmas day of 1934 the writer saw a Starling near Elk Point, Union County, in the extreme southeastern corner of the state. It is interesting to note that the Starling was recorded from a point nearly 300 miles north in the state a year before it was found in the southern corner of the state, near the Iowa boundary, where Starlings have been reported at different times since 1932.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

A Red-shafted Flicker Secured at Des Moines, Iowa.—An adult male Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) was collected by the writer at Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, on December 26, 1934. This bird, noted along Walnut Creek in west Des Moines, had bright red shafts to the primaries, secondaries, and rectrices, and these were conspicuous in flight. This specimen, now in the writer's collection, is believed to be the third Iowa specimen now preserved.

When the *Revised List of the Birds of Iowa* was published in 1933, the writer knew of no existing Iowa specimens. Recently Mr. Frank C. Pellett of Hamilton, Illinois, wrote that the specimen of Red-shafted Flicker secured by him at Atlantic, Cass County, September 25, 1896, was still in his private collection at Atlantic. Mr. James R. Harlan of Des Moines, secured an adult male in Van Buren County, October 22, 1933. It is of interest to note that exactly six years before, Miss Olivia McCabe observed two Red-shafted Flickers at Des Moines at the time of the 1928 Christmas Census.—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

A Cowbird Removes a Robin's Egg.—While seated at the dinner table, at about 5:30 p. m. on May 3, 1934, I saw a female Eastern Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) skulking through the foliage of the low evergreens around the foundation of the house. She quickly passed beyond the limits of my vision, but a friend, also seated at the table, observed that the Cowbird alighted in a pyramidal arborvitae and proceeded to a Robin's nest that contained four eggs which had been under incubation for several days. The bird was seen to seize one of the eggs and to fly to the ground, holding it in her mandibles. The sudden appearance of a dog caused the Cowbird to fly away, leaving the egg laying on the ground only a few yards from the window. On examining the egg we found that it had been punctured in three places. Apparently the egg had been carried with the mandibles separated considerably and driven deeply into the shell. The Robin's nest was not further molested by the Cowbird and the remaining eggs hatched in due course of time.—BENEDICT J. BLINCOE, *Route 13, Dayton, Ohio*.

Apparent Scarcity of Certain North Dakota Birds.—During the first week of June, 1934, I made a hurried trip to North Dakota, going directly to Bowman County on the Montana boundary and then working east through the butte country to Bismarck, later making a quick trip to Cando and up the Red River Valley on the way home. The scarcity of the big hawks was of interest and corroborated the conclusions of Mr. Norman A. Wood following his work in the state, in 1920 and 1921, when he found such a dearth of these birds. One