

## GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

**Another Snow Bunting Record for Utah.**—In the WILSON BULLETIN for June, 1935 (XLVII, p. 160), the writer reported collecting a female Eastern Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) in February, 1934, near Provo. On February 9, 1935, he observed three individuals of this species at the same place, one of which, a female, was collected. Both skins remain in the writer's collection.—D. ELMER JOHNSON, *Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah*.

**A Savannah Sparrow as a Cowbird Victim.**—On June 10, 1935, I came upon a nest of a Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*) containing three eggs—two of its own and one of the Cowbird. I succeeded in securing a photographic record of this. For some reason, however, either because it was infertile or because the victimized sparrow refused to incubate it, the Cowbird egg did not hatch, and after the sparrow's pair of young left the nest the parasite egg was found intact, buried in the grass forming the bottom of the nest.—JOHN M. VASICEK, *Cleveland, Ohio*.

**A Recent Record of the Hudsonian Curlew in the Chicago, Illinois, Region.**—Since the last published sight record, as given by Messrs. Ford, Sanborn, and Coursen (*Birds of the Chicago Region*, 1934), of the Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*) is over eleven years old, a new record of the bird in the Chicago region should be of interest. On June 16, 1935, Merrill McGawn and the writer observed one specimen along Lake Michigan, Lake County, Illinois. It was an interesting subject, especially in its flight above the water. The distinct median stripe through the crown was seen while the bird fed along the shore. It seemed attached to a particular feeding ground, and when approached too closely, instead of flying directly away it would circle over the beach, fly over the water before us and land on an opposite point, never flying beyond these points but keeping within the limits. It repeated this performance a number of times.—B. J. BUJAK, *Humboldt Park Station, Chicago, Ill.*

**The Starling at Kingfisher, Oklahoma.**—Since the normal migration of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) is being watched with interest and concern by all bird students, I wish to report the following collections by Mr. Cecil Bilger, an F.E.R.A. employee at the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College. On December 26, 1934, one specimen was taken seven miles northeast of Kingfisher; December 18, 1934, another in a chicken house after nightfall six miles northeast of Kingfisher; and December 31, 1934, one from a large flock of blackbirds seven miles northeast of Kingfisher. These birds are preserved as skins in the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College collection.

When these specimens were obtained, I had a feeling that this was the farthest west that any of these birds had been taken, but recently I received an unofficial report that a specimen had been taken at Alva, Oklahoma, and is in the Museum of the Northwestern State Teachers College.

Mrs. H. P. Holley of Bristow, Oklahoma, reported a flock of twelve that came to feed with other birds in her yard during the winter of 1930. She reports that they have not been seen since that time.—GEORGE A. MOORE, *Stillwater, Okla.*

**Migration of Waterfowl in Tidewater Virginia.**—My home is on the Lynnhaven River, in Princess Anne County, Virginia, where we hear the "honk"

of the wild goose at eventide very close to us during migrating time. The geese and ducks both spend the night in the tall rushes where sago pond weed and wild celery are found plentifully near by. This year in Back Bay the growth of feed has been ideal, owing to the remedial measures taken by both the Federal and State governments to reduce the salinity of the water, which condition was caused by the overflow of Chesapeake Bay in the storm of two years ago. As far back as the 1880's the hunting and fishing facilities of this county and adjacent waters have made this area a real sportsman's paradise, as is well known. Two years ago, after the Big Storm, quite a tragedy occurred here. Residents far up the river heard terrific shooting at midnight. Investigation found marauders in small boats shooting into the roosting places, killing both geese and ducks by the hundreds, getting a few but leaving most of them to die in the marshes. We had much trouble getting the game warden of the county, who lives at Back Bay, quite a distance. It was too late to make any arrests, but I am happy to say nothing of the kind has happened since and I believe our wild life is now being given good protection.—LUCY PENDLETON KEARNS, *Lynnhaven, Va.*

**The Lazuli Bunting in Northeastern South Dakota.**—During the first week of June, 1935, the writer was working on a waterfowl survey in the Waubay Lakes region in Day County, South Dakota, and it was here near Spring Lake that a male Lazuli Bunting was seen on several successive days. The strange thing, however, was the fact that the bird was consorting with two females. One female was an Indigo Bunting and the other a Lazuli Bunting. On every occasion when the male Lazuli Bunting was flushed the two females would also flush. The writer was sorry that he could not stay longer to determine whether both females started nest-building. The location of these birds was approximately thirty miles from the border lines of both Minnesota and North Dakota. The record is interesting in that it shows that previous reports of the Lazuli Bunting in Iowa and Minnesota were not accidental and that this bunting is actually extending its breeding range eastward. The question of hybrids between the Lazuli Bunting and the Indigo Bunting is again brought to mind and suggests that probably such hybrid specimens as taken by W. J. Breckenridge, in Warren County, Minnesota, on June 26, 1929, and by the writer in Cherry County, Nebraska, on June 1, 1932, will be found more frequently by ornithologists of the future.—WM. YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

**Nests of Crows and Other Birds in the Same Evergreen Grove.**—During the past three springs we have answered a number of calls from farmers in the vicinity of Ames, requesting help in driving away Crows that were molesting small chickens. All of these calls have been from farmsteads in which a few to several hundred evergreen trees have served as quite regular roosting places for Crows during the winter. Observations on our part and by the farm folks have shown that Crows will dispose of a few young chicks when these are accessible close to their roosting places. So far, in the limited number of cases contacted by us, from two to eight evenings of firing with shotguns into the small number of Crows at each roost have sufficed to drive them away until autumn, the larger number going elsewhere to roost, probably in the deciduous woodlands along the streams, since only a few Crows were killed at each grove.

While answering these calls we conjectured as to what would happen if the Crows were permitted to nest undisturbed in a grove of evergreens, and as to