

was not collected, but the observation was made under such conditions of light and distance that no error is possible. Of added interest is the fact that the bird evidently was one hatched last summer, for it still retained the plumage characteristic of such birds when seen passing through during the fall migration. The chin and throat were white, and the breast was marked with a horizontal band of black streaks and blotches. The "pink" or reddish bill was quite distinctive.—C. T. BLACK, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.*

The Snow Bunting in South Dakota.—The occurrence and distribution of the Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax n. nivalis*) in South Dakota is not thoroughly established. At present it is classified as a winter visitor. It is not readily studied, as it occurs irregularly in flocks, usually during or following a severe snow storm accompanied by low temperatures. Then, too, it is often confused by the casual observer with Hoyt's Horned Lark, also a winter visitor. However, the Snow Bunting is more plump and at a distance displays more white on the belly.

Records of its occurrence are more common for the east half of the state than for the west. S. S. Visher (WILSON BULLETIN, June, 1915) says for South Dakota, "common some winters; others rare." Norman Wood (*A Preliminary Survey of Bird Life of North Dakota*, 1923) says, "winter resident some years." Adrian Larson (WILSON BULLETIN, March, 1925) says for South Dakota, "irregular winter visitor." These records apply to the eastern half of their respective states.

During the past winter (1935-36) it was recorded from the western part of the state. The writer has observed it many times in flocks of various numbers during cold days, either flying or feeding in weed patches or in plowed fields where snow had blown off. About 1915 a flock was seen feeding around elevators at Vermillion. In the Museum bird skin collection there are four from Hutchinson County, taken during the winter of 1901; one from Miner County, 1899, and three from Sanborn County, 1915.—W. H. OVER, *University Museum, Vermillion, S. Dak.*

Bird Notes from Oklahoma.—The following sight records were made in Oklahoma during 1935. Reference to the *Birds of Oklahoma* by M. M. Nice (1931, revised edition) leads me to the belief that species herein mentioned are rare or uncommon in Oklahoma. For that reason, these notes are of some interest.

Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen h. hyperboreus*) and Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). A flock of thirty Lesser Snow Geese and two Blue Geese was seen at Ponca Lake, Ponca City, April 15. The birds were fed grain by city park patrolmen and remained in the vicinity until April 24.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*). One bird observed flying over Lake Spavinaw, Mayes County, September 20.

Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinanns*). One bird seen April 29 at Crystal Lake within the city of Woodward, Woodward County.

Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus* subsp.). A Dowitcher was observed in a rain-filled ditch ten miles north of Perry, Noble County, on April 15. Three others were seen October 6 on the west shore of Lake Overholser, Canadian County.

Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*). I noticed a flock of fourteen birds on a mud flat in the North Canadian River at Woodward, April 29.

Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). Two were seen April 15 beside a rain pool on U. S. Highway 77, eight miles north of Perry.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*). A large tern, most likely this species, was watched as it dived for fish while flying over Lake Spavinaw, September 20.

Common Tern (*Sterna h. hirundo*). Six were seen on April 29 at Crystal Lake, Woodward.

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*). Recorded by Mrs. Nice as "summer resident in the Wichita Mountains (Comanche County) and Cimarron County." Several were seen and heard on June 18 and August 28 in the Quartz Mountains, Greer and Kiowa Counties and no doubt the species nests in that locality.—JAMES STEVENSON, *Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Sex Ratio of English Sparrows.—After hearing Dr. L. J. Cole at the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at St. Louis speak on the sex ratio of English Sparrow nestlings, my own records from 1932 to 1935 were reviewed, with the following results:

Month	Male	Female	Undetermined
January	13	0	0
February	6	6	0
March	7	19	0
April	7	25	0
May	3	35	22
June	1	1	33
September	14	24	0
October	26	37	0
November	12	14	0
December	37	20	0
Total.....	126	181	55

These figures include both young and old birds caught in traps used for banding purposes. Eighty-five of the birds were dissected for sex determination and other studies. The ratio of birds caught in different seasons shows a tendency similar to that of the Cardinal. More males enter traps during winter months and more females during nesting seasons.—CORA SHOOP, *Steelville, Mo.*

The Field Characters of the Black-bellied and Golden Plovers.—Mr. Bayard H. Christy, an able and informative writer, made an inexplicable slip in his "Beach Combers" in the December, 1935, issue of the WILSON BULLETIN that will surely cause confusion in the minds of some of his readers. On page 268 he stated, while discussing field marks of the Black-bellied and the Golden Plovers, that the "only sure field mark is the hind toe—its presence or its absence"—and this after having noted the "broadly white and outspread wings and tail" of the Black-bellied Plover then under observation. According to the best descriptions available, the light stripe in the open wing and the white or whitish tail are amply sufficient to distinguish the Black-bellied from the Golden Plover in straightaway flight. In a side view in flight of a bird in immature or winter plumage, the black axillars (showing a black spot under the wing close up against the body) form a conspicuous field mark of the Black-bellied that is absent in the Golden. So much for actual markings. But anyone really familiar with the Black-bellied Plover in any plumage need never fear that he will overlook a Golden Plover. The Golden is a totally different bird—slimmer, more shapely, with a smaller head, and decidedly brownish in its "gray" plumage.