

Iowa

BIRD LIFE



Vol. XXXII No. 4

December 1962

Published by the

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



GORDON PRINTING CO., DAVENPORT, IOWA

SAY'S PHOEBE

Painted by E. W. Steffen, loaned by Wm. Youngworth.

SAY'S PHOEBE IN WESTERN IOWA

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Say's Phoebe, a bird of the western ranches and sagebrush areas, has come to the fertile farmland of western Iowa and is indeed a very welcome summer resident. This fine bird is un-mistakable with its grey-brown back with darker tail and the warm rusty ochre of the underparts becoming grey on the throat. The usual call note is a soft phee-ur. The flight is strong, but erratic. Its perch is often a fencepost, a tall weed stalk, but more often in Iowa a dead cornstalk from last year's crop. The flight of the mating male is usually made while giving a short trilling song, but on May 2, 1962, the senior author and the junior author and his wife watched a male Say's Phoebe make this flight around a small clump of trees near the nest. Each flight was several hundred feet in a broad oval and was made several times without stopping and in absolute silence. Upon completion the phoebe dropped to a fencepost for a rest. The phoebe's nest was under the small wooden bridge we were standing on and the female sat a short distance away, quietly watching the male's flight.

In the western badlands and mountains the Say's Phoebe is a common nesting bird around occupied or un-occupied buildings of any kind. In more remote areas it nests in holes in banks, under rock slides or other sheltered places. In Iowa at least, it has been found nesting so far almost entirely under bridges, and usually under very small wooden ones.

It was during the summer of 1960 that the senior author noticed strange, dark-looking flycatchers at a bridge near his farm east of Akron, Iowa. He soon found his first nest of the Say's Phoebe in Iowa. The nest was empty. Investigation, however, brought to light a second phoebe nest under another small bridge a short distance away. This second nest contained a clutch of eggs, but it never hatched because a bridge repair crew broke up the nest in the course of their work and not through viciousness. That ended the Say's Phoebe nesting for that year.

In 1961 the phoebes returned to the site where their nest had been destroyed as described above. This pair built their nest and raised at least four and possibly five young that season. This phoebe family remained in the vicinity until nearly the first frost. About three weeks after seeing the above pair of Say's Phoebes, the senior author found another pair of birds nesting under a high concrete bridge about two miles away. This pair had young in the nest and were busy feeding them whenever observed. The nest was too high up on a beam to ascertain the number of nestlings.

The 1962 season opened on April 17, when the senior author again saw Say's Phoebes about the wooden bridges where they had nested in the past. This information was very welcome to the junior author and on May 2 Mrs. Youngworth and he made a trip up to the Ruble, Iowa, area where the Bryant farm is located. A delightful day was spent looking for Say's Phoebes. We found two nesting pairs and saw a single male phoebe near a set of farm buildings. There was no doubt now that this fine bird had become a part of the Iowa fauna.

On June 25, 1962, the junior author and his wife made a trip of 150 miles to the east and north of the area worked by the senior author and were happy to find one nesting pair of Say's Phoebes north of Craig, Iowa, and just inside the Sioux County line. More than forty wooden bridges were checked on this trip. Another trip of nearly the same length, again checking about fifty bridges, brought negative results. This trip was made still farther east and north of Sioux City and up the Floyd River valley. A fourth trip was made in the area from Hawarden to Inwood without finding any Say's Phoebes. While not positive proof, this would seem to confine the nesting phoebes at the present time to western Plymouth and Sioux Counties.

After our May 2 field trip the senior author went after Say's Phoebe records with a vengeance. He and his family checked an area roughly fifteen miles long and seven miles wide in the following townships: Preston, Grant, Washington, Johnson, Westfield, and Liberty in Plymouth County. The results are of great import, because they show the Say's Phoebe firmly established as a summer resident in western Iowa. Say's Phoebes were found in eleven locations. Nests were located under seven bridges while mud and high water under some of the other bridges prevented actual finding of more nests. The matter of the lone male Say's Phoebe which was seen by all concerned on May 2, 1962, near some farm buildings was cleared up a few days later by the senior author when he found the nest under a bridge a short distance west of this farm.

During 1962 one pair of Say's Phoebes was watched closely by the senior author as the nest was under a bridge adjacent to the farm. This pair raised five young and the family departed from the area for a few weeks. On June 29 this pair returned to the same bridge and began to prepare for a second brood. Fall departure seems to be about October 1, as none have been seen after that date.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lueshen of Wisner, Nebraska, which town is in extreme northeastern Nebraska, have reported nesting Say's Phoebes around their farm home for many years. Credit must go to them for urging the senior author to work posthaste on the Say's Phoebe survey.

In the course of the work the senior author did not confine his observations to Iowa, and the result is a new bird for Union County, South Dakota, namely the Say's Phoebe. During one trip to Jefferson, South Dakota, a single Say's Phoebe was seen about midway between Jefferson and the Hunter Bridge over the Big Sioux River. This bird flew in front of the car and down into a borrow pit where it disappeared. Another interesting record came to light in correspondence of the junior author with Ronald Nelson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Mr. Nelson reported that a Say's Phoebe perched in the garage at his home east of Sioux Falls, on June 3, 1961. This phoebe remained in and about the garage for a day or two and then left.

These records all tend to prove the contention of the senior author that perhaps the Say's Phoebe, a rather unobtrusive bird, is not as rare a bird in this area as we have thought in the past. The Lueshens and the two above observers are now in agreement that the Say's Phoebe is certainly on another move eastward. In retrospect we must go back to DuMont, in his **Revised List of the Birds of Iowa**. In this valuable publication, Say's Phoebe is listed as formerly a casual summer resident; the record rests solely on one record by Dr. Isador S. Trostler. Dr. Trostler recorded this phoebe as a rare summer resident in Mills County. This is our only other Iowa record until the recent findings of the senior author. DuMont concludes, "There is no Iowa specimen or other satisfactory record."

Some local observations made by the senior author might be of interest to Iowa observers and are given below. In four or five cases the Say's Phoebe would share their bridge with Robins. Under one bridge a Barn Swallow had its nest near that of the phoebe. None of the phoebe nests were found under bridges where there were nests of House Sparrows or Rock Doves. Say's Phoebes seem to prefer small wooden bridges at least one-fourth of a mile from farm buildings. Most of these small wooden bridges on the section roads are similarly built with the heavy wooden floor joists interlaced every so often with a row of x-bracing. It is up in the safety of these braces that the phoebes build their strong, compact nests of grass, hair, and other soft materials. In the fall the Say's Phoebes return to the home bridge to roost just before dusk.

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FOCUSING ON A JACK-PINE WARBLER

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Last summer during mid-June, we had the very enjoyable experience of seeing the Kirtland's Warbler at close range. We had written to the Michigan Conservation Department asking them for possible nesting areas. They indicated that the principal nesting area this summer was two miles north of Higgins Lake and seven miles west on Fletcher Road. This general area of Michigan is the only known nesting habitat of this bird.

The morning of June 18th dawned wet and rainy. After the rain ceased, we traveled down a very muddy road to the nesting site which was in a large tract of jack pines. We found the habitat to be very similar to that Mayfield described in **The Kirtland's Warbler**. Nests have been found, almost exclusively, on a soil type known as Grayling Sand. The Kirtland's Warbler is notable for restricting its nesting area to extensive tracts of land densely covered with small jack pines and interspersed with enough clearings to permit sunlight to penetrate to the lower branches. The warbler is never found in an area unless the jack pine is the dominant tree cover. Hence, their cognomen, the Jack-pine Warbler. They appear on the scene when the pines are from six to sixteen feet tall. When the trees get taller than that, most of the lower branches have died off leaving no protective cover for the birds going to and from the nest.

Once located, we could hear many of the birds singing and see them clearly with binoculars, but focusing a camera lens on them was more difficult. Also the weather was hot, humid, and threatening rain. The overcast skies were enough to discourage many a photographer. We returned to the car and ate lunch. Early in the afternoon the skies cleared and we decided to try for a colored slide. The birds were still available, but they did not seem to sing as much as they had in the morning. My husband found a male who was in good light and relatively still and began photographing him



KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

Photo by Arthur Carpenter



PRAIRIE WARBLER

Photo by Arthur Carpenter

through his telephoto lens. The bird flew and when he returned he had an insect in his mouth indicating to us that a nest must be nearby. As we walked among the pines, a female flew up from the low underbrush near one of the trees. Investigation revealed a nest with young in a hollow in the ground and expertly hidden from view.

My husband left me and our two boys at the site of the nest and returned to the car for his close-up lens. While he was gone, the male returned and sat in the low branches right above the nest. Shortly afterward, the female also returned. My two-year-old, fascinated at having wild birds at such close range, advanced slowly saying he wanted to "pet the birdie." I was curious to see how close the birds would let him come. He got within two feet of the male and within inches of the nest before the bird flew at him and up over his head. Then he feigned a broken wing as he hovered around the ground near the nest. Jimmy retreated to where Tommy and I stood and the three of us continued to wait about ten feet from the nest. When it became obvious we were not going to leave, the male and female took to flying back and forth low over our heads from tree to tree on either side of us. (The nest was below a third tree in front of us.) When this failed to scare us off the male, who had been singing his usual call of "che-che-che wiwi," flew to a limb right above the nest and started to call something that sounded remarkably like, "Git! Git!" The alarm note as given by Mayfield is "check." But in this case it certainly sounded like "Git!"

By the time my husband returned with his lens both birds, especially the male, were thoroughly agitated. They "posed" near the nest while the camera clicked away taking portraits at close range. When we started trying to take pictures of the nest, the male flew at my husband at first and then perched on a low branch and refused to move as we took a couple shots of the nest with him literally breathing down our necks. He defiantly main-

tained his post about 18 inches from us. This close range view enabled us to get an excellent look at his markings: yellow breast with black spots on the sides, grey-blue back and head with black "mask" which is lacking in the female who is duller and grayer in appearance. The male remained motionless on his low branch while we packed up equipment and left.

This was our first experience in bird photography where the photographer had great difficulty in getting far enough from the subject to focus properly.

Besides the Kirtland's, another new bird for us was the Prairie Warbler. This bird's call is a most unusual series of zees ascending the scale. We heard the call first and then came upon the bird as we sought out a Kirtland's warbler to photograph. Although it is known as the Prairie Warbler, it is unknown to this area with only a few rare sightings on record.

REPORT OF THE FALL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16, 1962

MYRLE M. BURK,

Secretary

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

Ninety-one bird-watchers met at the Ledges State Park to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Partridge, to meet old and new friends, and to explore the trails of the beautiful park. Some camped in the park using trailers and tents, one slept in a jungle hammock, but the less adventurous took hotel or motel rooms.

Following registration, members toured the interesting Wildlife Exhibit, explored the park trails and visited. After the gay potluck supper the moving pictures "Sport Wheeling in the Sierras" and "Map of an Empire" were shown by Wayne Partridge. Members then had the opportunity to project their recent slides of birds.

During the evening the Executive Council met to discuss problems relating to the May Convention to be held at Sioux City, and possible activities to meet the interests of our growing society.

Sunday morning dawned cloudy and cool, but a large group gathered for the bird hike in the Nature Trail area of the Park. In this recently developed area the hikers followed a trail bordered by herbaceous plants, trees and shrubs, labeled with name, uses and other interesting facts. The trail also led to spectacular views of the Des Moines River and its valley, and finally to a duckweed-covered pond where a family of Wood Duck were feeding. High above the valley forty or more Turkey Vultures floated effortlessly on the updrafts. A flock of Cedar Waxwings rested in the treetops; a few warblers, the Parula and the Blackburnian as well as the Yellowthroat were recognized. Hordes of voraciously hungry mosquitoes interfered with the study of the smaller birds. In spite of the mosquitoes and a short violent windstorm, the walk was very rewarding. Nature trails so organized are an asset to any park, whether state or county. The hikers returned to the I.O.U. center in the park, where Mr. and Mrs. Partridge, Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L. Jones and others were preparing a breakfast of coffee, fruit drink, sweet rolls, scrambled eggs and ham. As the last few were being served, a heavy rain descended sending everyone scurrying to cover the food and find

shelter in their cars. It rained, and rained, and rained: After the deluge, which some estimated was an hour long, the sun shone brightly and activities were resumed.

Interest was centered in bird netting and banding. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Petersen and Mike Yeast set nets in the shrubbery on the side of a ravine and in the valley of the ravine. For a short time the warblers fed; three Red-eyed Vireos, two Tennessee, one Orange-crowned, and two Nashville Warblers as well as several chickadees and titmice were banded.

Luncheon was served in the park shelter. A short business meeting followed. Due to the serious illness of his mother, Dean Roosa, president, was absent and Myra Willis, vice-president, called the meeting to order. A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Partridge for their hospitality was extended. Moved by Esther Copp that the bill for snacks served Saturday evening and before the hike Sunday morning be allowed. Seconded by Lillian Serbousek. Motion carried. Mrs. Helen Barrett discussed the plans for the May 1963 Convention in Sioux City.

Since the fall meeting is growing in attendance and purpose, having developed from a picnic dinner into a two-day meeting, the Executive Council asked that an expression of the type of program desired should be given by members attending this meeting. After discussion the opinion was condensed in a motion by Mrs. Darrell Hanna that the meeting be informal (meaning absence of formal papers) but definitely planned, considering the convenience of the hosts. Seconded by Darrell Hanna. Motion carried. The invitation to the I.O.U. to hold its 1963 fall meeting as guests of the Waterloo Audubon Society was met with applause. Mrs. Lueshen moved to accept the invitation. Seconded by Wayne Partridge. Motion carried.

The proposal that the I.O.U. establish a life membership met with no response. Action on the establishment of an endowment fund was also deferred. Dr. J. Harold Ennis moved that the recommendations for a new Field Check List as described by the committee be adopted. Second by Mrs. John Lueshen. Motion carried. Dr. Ennis reported that the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, due largely to the efforts of Miss Shirley Briggs, has on display a collection of the journals of ornithology of societies across the country. The files of **Iowa Bird Life** are incomplete; Dr. Ennis suggested that, since Shirley Briggs, who is an Iowan, designed the present beautiful cover of **Iowa Bird Life**, the missing copies of our journal be presented to the District of Columbia Audubon Naturalists Society of the Central Atlantic States. So moved by Dr. Ennis; seconded by Peter C. Petersen. Motion carried.

Dr. Ennis also attended the meeting of the All-Iowa Conservation Council which met in Boone this same weeknd. He reported that the Council had a lengthy discussion regarding an open season on Mourning Doves. The right of the State Conservation Commission on its own initiative to declare an open season on the Mourning Dove was resolved. However, later in the meeting the motion was defeated. Dr. Ennis further suggested that members of the I.O.U. should express their interest concerning the saving of wildlife to the Council.

Members have expressed a desire for car seals, or stickers, to use to promote publicity for the I.O.U. A design showing an American Goldfinch perched on a thistle was presented; it met with general approval. Moved by Mrs. Liljedahl that the I.O.U. adopt the use of the car seals. Seconded by Mike Yeast; motion carried. The number to be ordered was left to the

discretion of the officers. Moved by Lillian Serbousek that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Petersen. Adjournment. And upon leaving, the attitude of all was expressed by one young naturalist, "Do we have to go home already?"

Compilation of birds seen: (This list is largely the contribution of Russell Hays with additions by Peter Petersen, Jr.) Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker; Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse.

White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, 50 species.

Attendance Register

- AMES: Mr. and Mrs. James M. Burns and family, Loren Jones, Dave Trauger.
 BELLEVUE: Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L. Jones.
 BURLINGTON: James Barker, Mrs. Jane Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Leopold, Jack McLane, Audrey Nieman.
 CEDAR FALLS: Mrs. Madeline D. Carpenter, Dr. and Mrs. Martin Grant, Annette Haffner, Rodger and Thomas Moon, Mrs. Blanche and Maxine Schwanke, Mrs. Florence Spring.
 CEDAR RAPIDS: Lillian Serbousek, Myra Willis.
 DAVENPORT: Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Mike Yeast.
 DAWSON: Sue and Klick Tomlin and boys.
 DES MOINES: Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward H. Brown.
 FAIRFIELD: Dr. and Mrs. Floyd Von Ohlen.
 GILMORE CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Sewell Van Alstine.
 LEHIGH: Dean M. Roosa.
 MADRID: Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Lanning, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Partridge.
 MANSON: John E. Moeding.
 MARION: Thomas Dochterman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Liljedahl.
 MARSHALLTOWN: Evelyn Drury, Mrs. L. R. Grimes, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Johnson, Ruth Knight, Lucille Mitchum, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart.
 MT. PLEASANT: George Crane.
 MOUNT VERNON: Dr. J. Harold Ennis.
 OELWEIN: Mr. and Mrs. Earl Alton.
 OGDEN: Jim Keenan.
 PERRY: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Brady, Stephen Patterson.
 SIGOURNEY: Mr. and Mrs. Forrest G. Millikin.
 SIOUX CITY: Ann Barrett, Mrs. Helen G. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Davison, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Lambert, Alice Loeffler, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Nickolson, Mr. and Mrs. Garland H. Roose.
 WATERLOO: Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Dorothy M. Drackley, Russell M. Hays, Mrs. Mabelle Hinkley, Margaret Nagel, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Osness and Nick, Pearl Rader.
 WHEATLAND: Esther Copp.
 WOODWARD: Richard A. Guthrie.
 WISNER, NEBRASKA: Mr. and Mrs. John Lueshen.

GENERAL NOTES REPORTS

The numbers of birds seen during the fall migration, which is now growing to a close, have varied greatly as between family groups. Few comments regarding shorebirds have been received while bluebirds in particular were seen in unusual numbers in several localities. The feature of the warbler migration was the large number of Myrtles seen after several years of scarcity in many areas. Banding reports at Davenport are based on data from Pine Hill Cemetery and comparisons with 1961 are for nets in the same place both years and run over the same period, with the exception of the start, which was August 14 in 1961 and August 28 in 1962.

Grebes, Pelicans, Herons. Several Horned and one Eared Grebe were seen at the Des Moines Impounding Reservoir in October, but there was no concentration of Pied-billed. A flock of 35 grebes was at Swan Lake on October 5. (FK). A large flight of White Pelicans occurred on October 11, when flocks of about 1,000 and 250 came down the Missouri River. (WY). While these are usually seen at Lamoni, none has been observed thus far. (DG). One Pelican spent a week on the Coralville Reservoir late in October. (FK). About 100 Great Blue Herons were seen at Badger Lake August 16. (WY). A Little Blue Heron was at the Reservoir September 1, and 10 egrets on September 15, four on the 28th and six on October 13 were also seen by Kent.

Geese, Ducks. About 300 Blue and Snow Geese were seen on October 14 at Big Marsh. (RH). Numerous reports of geese seen and heard going over Des Moines have been received, but few have stopped. At Lamoni flocks of Blues and Snows were seen on October 11 and 13, with a total of about 500 seen on the latter date. Few ducks have been seen at either Iowa City or Des Moines thus far. About 8,600 divers, chiefly scaup, were present below Sabula Nov. 11. (PP).

Vultures, Hawks. Two migrating Turkey Vultures were observed at Goldfield on Oct. 7. (DR). A good Sharp-shin migration was in evidence Oct. 5-8 at Goldfield and Davenport. There were 10 Red-tailed on October 11 and five on October 20 at Sioux City. (WY). On October 13 a hawk migration was noticed at Waterloo, with 10 or more Red-tailed, several small flocks of Broad-winged, and a number of unidentified buteos. More Red-tailed were seen on the following day, and the impression is that these were abundant this year. (RH). This species was scarce all summer at Des Moines, but several were seen each trip during the latter part of October. Harlan's were seen on Oct. 6, 7, and 9; most Red-shoulders in five years on October 6; and two large flocks of Broad-winged Oct. 10, 60, and October 11, 50, all at Goldfield. (DR). The only reports of Swainson's come from Sioux City where one was seen October 11, Lamoni where two immatures were observed August 23, and Davenport where Blevins found at least three on October 16. First Rough-legs at Goldfield October 16. at Davenport October 29. (LB). A Ferruginous Hawk was seen November 3, near Stuart; details in a separate note. Hawks were "generally scarce" at Lamoni. An immature Golden Eagle was seen near Des Moines on October 27; details are given in a separate note, and twice at Goldfield, Oct. 5 and October 6. (DR). Kent saw an immature Bald Eagle at Conesville on September 21. An Osprey was seen October 7 and 19 on the Reservoir (FK), one on the Raccoon River in Des Moines on October 10, one at Little Wall Lake on October 14 (DK), and another October 7 at Lock #14 (PP). Roosa saw no Peregrines or Pigeon Hawks for the first time in four years. Sparrow Hawk migration poor at Davenport (LB), and 6 banded compared to 34 last fall at Goldfield (DR).

Rails, Shorebirds. The migration was very poor at Des Moines; there were few spots attractive to migrants, and at the sewage disposal plant there were fewer than usual. A King Rail was at Big Marsh on October 14. (RH). A flock of 450 American Coots at the Des Moines Impounding Reservoir on October 20 was an unusually large concentration, and Kent saw several hundred on October 17. Two hundred Killdeers at Conesville Marsh in September are noteworthy. (FK). A Black-bellied Plover on August 26 was a very early date for Des Moines, and there was one at Iowa City on September 11. An American Woodcock at Marble Rock was an unusual find (PK), another banded at Davenport on October 14. (PP). A Common Snipe in Des Moines on August 3 was three weeks early, and another early one was Iowa City on August 11. A flock of nine Upland Plovers was at Lamoni, but there appeared to be fewer than usual the past summer. Kent saw only one. A single Baird's Sandpiper at Decorah September 8. (FL).

Gulls, Terns. Franklin's Gulls were seen in the hundreds at Sioux City on October 11 and 12, and on the 20th there was a flock of 1,000 or more. Several hundred appeared at the Des Moines Impounding Reservoir on October 16, and there was a small flock on the 20th. Two Caspian Tern were at the Coralville Reservoir on September 11, and eight on the 15th. (FK).

Cuckoos. Last Yellow-billed Cuckoo banded at Davenport Sep. 26, recaptured on October 1. (PP). The last Black-billed Cuckoo was seen at Sioux City on September 15, while one was in Des Moines on October 10 and one banded at Davenport October 8.

Owls. Saw-whets first caught October 21 at Davenport with a total of nine banded. (PP).

Goatsuckers, Swifts. The Common Nighthawk flight at Sioux City started rather early on August 21, and more than 250 were counted on the 29th. A few were seen almost daily until September 13. (WY). Three loose flocks of about 100 each at Goldfield August 20. The last at Iowa City were seen October 12. Last Whip-poor-will banded at Davenport September 23. (PP). The last Chimney Swifts seen at Sioux City were two on October 13 and two were seen in Des Moines on the 15th.

Flycatchers. Eastern Kingbirds started to leave Sioux City on August 9, which was rather early, and the final flight was on the 16th when more than 500 were seen. On August 31 at least 200 were noticed in Des Moines. Western Kingbirds also left early with the last on August 23. (WY). Des Moines had two Eastern Phoebes on October 13, a rather late date. The last one banded at Davenport was October 30. Empidonax migration was poor at Goldfield, while at Davenport banded Yellow-bellied were down to three from twenty-one in 1961; Acadian to three from five in 1961; Traill's to fourteen from thirty in 1961; and Least up to nine from three in 1961. (PP). The last Wood Pewees seen in Sioux City were five on August 16, which is early for a "last". Olive-sided banded at Davenport August 27. (PP).

Swallows. Two hundred Tree Swallows at Princeton October 7. (PP). The last Bank Swallows seen at Sioux City were on October 6. Barn Swallows were not as common as in some years, and the last were seen on October 14—about 250 in number. A Barn Swallow on October 28 in Des Moines was a late date. Cliff Swallows also stayed late at Sioux City, being seen on October 13. (WY). These appeared at Lamoni about the usual time with from 100 to 200 seen the last week in August. Most of the Purple Martins left after September 9, with one seen on the 30th. (WY), while Waterloo had three on October 14.

Wrens. A Bewick's and a Winter Wren were found October 14 when the Waterloo Audubon Society held a field trip to Heery Woods and Big Marsh. Two Winter Wrens October 3 and five October 4 at Decorah, (FL), and two were banded at Davenport, one on September 26 and one on October 25. (PP). Mrs. Brooke had a Winter Wren on September 28 in Des Moines, and the first Carolina Wren in many months was found on October 6. "A lot" of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen in August at Iowa City where none had been in early summer. This condition had been noticed in other years. (FK).

Thrushes. There was a large migration of Robins in Des Moines, but few other thrushes, with the exception of Eastern Bluebirds, were seen. Robins were also more numerous than in many fall seasons at Marble Rock, (PK), and Goldfield. (DR). Three Wood Thrushes found Oct. 13 at Decorah. (FL). Most Hermit Thrushes banded in four falls at Davenport, twenty-one, between September 26 and October 14. (PP). Youngworth's first fall record for the Veery was on September 21. Six banded at Davenport between September 1 and 6. (PP). Bluebirds seemed very scarce in Sioux City, but were unusually abundant in Des Moines. There were reports of bluebird flocks in and around Waterloo from a number of observers, according to Russell Hays, and many days during September and October there were flocks of a dozen or more at Lamoni. Most bluebirds in five years at Goldfield between August 29 and October 21. (DR). While none were seen during the nesting season at Marble Rock, there were a number this fall.

Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were commented upon by several reporters. "Another heavy flight of Ruby-crowns in Sioux City, with 10 to 20 or 25 seen on some days," (WY). "Numerous Ruby-crowns and Golden-crowns—really thick this fall," (RH), "Greatest kinglet (both) migration in four years here." (DR). There also appeared to be more Ruby-crowned in Des Moines with a fair number of Golden-crowned. Both Kinglets definitely down at Davenport with thirty-one Golden-crowned banded against 108 in 1961 and forty-nine Ruby-crowned banded against 136 in 1961. (PP). Gillaspey saw three Water Pipits on October 11, but considers this a poor showing. Several seen at Little Wall Lake October 14. (DK). At Iowa City there were 200 Cedar Waxwings feeding on Cedar berries on October 25. (FK).

Vireos, Warblers. Youngworth's comment was "A mild flight (of vireos) this fall," but Des Moines observers saw few other than Solitary Vireos at the start of the migration. Vireos down sharply at Goldfield, with none banded compared to fifty-eight in 1961. (DR). At Davenport eight banded compared to thirty-two in 1961. (PP). There were a limited number of species of warblers at Sioux City, but encouraging numbers of Myrtles, and long continued flights of Nashville, Orange-crowned and Tennessee from mid-September to mid-October. The situation in Des Moines was similar with the exception that Tennessees were few. Other places also found larger than usual numbers of Myrtles. Youngworth was what was only his second fall Black-throated Green on September 29, but there were several of these seen in Des Moines. The very rare (in Polk County) Black-throated Blue was seen by Mrs. Brooke on October 3. The biggest movement of warblers came in the first week in September and was about average according to Pearl Knoop. Peaks noted at Decorah on September 9, September 24-25 and October 3-4. (FL). At Davenport 202 warblers were banded compared with 287 in 1961, species dropping from twenty-one to sixteen and peaks occurring on September 4-6, 12-13 and 23-24. Myrtles were more common with forty-six banded against twenty-eight in 1961. (PP).

Icterids. Orchard Orioles left Sioux City rather late, being seen on August 29, but the Baltimore left on September 13 which is early for that species. A dozen Brewer's Blackbirds (the first of the season) were following the plow at Lamoni on October 29. Three Rusty Blackbirds at the Impounding Reservoir on October 26 were the first reported in Des Moines, while the first banded at Davenport was on November 6. (PP).

Finches. American Goldfinchs up at Davenport, with 251 banded compared to sixty-nine in 1961. (PP). A late Rufous-sided Towhee nest found August 29 at Goldfield, four eggs and female incubating; was deserted September 4. (DR). "The sparrow migration just hasn't developed as only White-throats and juncos have been seen, and the former not as numerous as usual." (PK). In Des Moines there have been relatively few species other than White-throats. A Clay-colored Sparrow found by the Peasleys on October 6 was an unusual fall date, while five were banded at Davenport, four on September 23 and one September 28. (PP). The sparrow migration at Davenport was up slightly with 827 individuals of fourteen species including junco banded compared to 755 individuals of twelve species in 1961. Juncos were up to 287 from 133 in 1961 and Song up to 192 from 125 in 1961, but White-throats were down from 255 in 1961 to 138 and only one White-crowned. Best catch was the second and third Harris's ever caught in four years, captured October 22 and 26. (PP). Good numbers of White-throats at Goldfield. (DR). A wave of finches was evident at Waterloo on October 28 when varying number of eight species were seen. The sparrow population in October at Iowa City was described as "especially good" due to the Reservoir "growing wild." Lincoln's Sparrows have been especially abundant with up to ten seen each trip. (FK). A Snow Bunting at the Impounding Reservoir on October 20 was a rarity. Three Snow Buntings were found at the Coralville Reservoir October 31 by the Peter Laudes.

Contributors: Lewis Blevins, Davenport; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Dick Knight, Ames; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Fred Leshner, Decorah; Peter Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Dean Roosa, Goldfield; William Youngworth, Sioux City. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll, Des Moines.

Golden Eagle in Polk County. An observation which is unusual in Polk County was made on October 27, 1962, in Walnut Woods State Park when an immature Golden Eagle was sighted by Mrs. Margaret Brooke, Miss Mary Ellen Wartens, and W. H. Brown. The eagle came into view at a comparatively low elevation and soared repeatedly in circles almost directly overhead. As it banked from time to time the upper side also was plainly visible. The most conspicuous features were the very dark over-all appearance, the contrasting white spot at the bend of each wing, the light area at the base of the tail, and the wide black terminal band on the tail. The large size became even more apparent when a crow flew close by affording a comparison of their sizes. The eagle remained in plain view at surprisingly close range, and with the bright sunshine identification was certain. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll, Des Moines.

Bufflehead Breeding in Iowa. What appears to be the first confirmed nesting record of the Bufflehead in Iowa has recently come to my attention. A non-flying immature was banded by Mr. Wesley Newcomb, U.S. Game Management Agent of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for Iowa, at McCray Slough near Lake View, Sac County, Iowa, on July 26, 1962. The only basis for the breeding of the Bufflehead in Iowa previously was obtained from undetailed statements submitted in response to the migration questionnaire by Mr. W. W. Cooke in the 1880's for the Clear Lake area. JAMES SIEH, Biology Station, Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Ferruginous Hawk in Western Iowa. On November 3, 1962, a Ferruginous Hawk was observed along Interstate 80 east of Stuart, Iowa, in Adair County. The bird was perched atop a cable pole along the highway. We dropped a bal-chatri hawk trap and observed the bird from about 75 yards down the highway for several minutes. The hawk was interested in our Meadow Mouse and flew over it once, returning to the pole when scared away by another car. When it became obvious the bird was losing interest in the bait animal and traffic was allowing it little opportunity to stoop we retrieved our trap. We had observed the pale breast, light head and neck and large size of the perched bird from the car. Upon flushing it the whitish tail with red at the terminal end and no dark tip was obvious. The bird was observed by Mary Lou and I and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trial. PETER PETERSEN JR., 2736 East High St., Davenport.

Sherman Swift Tower Saved From Destruction. The gratitude of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union is expressed to Bob Daubendiek of the Northeast Iowa Audubon Society for saving from destruction the Chimney Swift tower built by that wonderful writer-ornithologist, Althea Sherman (1853-1943), National, Iowa. The tower, built in 1915, is a 9 ft. by 9 ft. building 28 ft. high with an artificial chimney extending half way down. Stairs lead to the chimney which is conveniently fitted with peep holes for the purpose of observing the home life of the Chimney Swift. All who have read Miss Sherman's book **Birds of an Iowa Dooryard**, realize what an unique achievement it was to observe first-hand the behavior of these swifts, also how painstaking she was in recording data. The tower, as far as is known, is the only one of its kind in existence, and it is a feeling of relief to know that it will not be razed in the name of "progress". Those of us who stopped to see the Sherman Tower as we returned from the 1960 fall meeting at McGregor recall climbing the stairs to see the chimney made famous in Miss Sherman's book; also, we recall the poor condition of all the buildings. It was then that Bob first mentioned restoration of the buildings. However, no action was taken.

In a more recent letter from Bob, he told me the ground upon which the Sherman buildings stood was sold and the buildings torn down so the land could be farmed. Bob purchased the tower with his own funds and moved it to "Andy Mountain Campground" located just south of Harpers Ferry. The campground is owned by Mr. Daubendiek, Decorah, and was named for his only son, Andy. Those of us who knew Andy were saddened beyond words to hear he was killed in an accident while working on the area last summer. He was a fine young man. The tower will be completely restored as a small museum and it is hoped that the writings of Miss Sherman will be centered there, as well as a display of other items of interest in the birding field. The Tower-Museum will be strictly non-commercial and open to the public.

Miss Sherman is one of the brighter lights of Iowa ornithological history, having published papers in **The Auk**, **The Wilson Bulletin**, **Bird Lore**, and **Iowa Conservationist**; she also presented papers at meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union, The Wilson Ornithological Club, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and others. (Vol. XXIII, No. 3, **Iowa Bird Life**, June 1943). It is sad that the site of her home was not set aside as a monument. However, we can help make the tower a fitting tribute to this careful researcher by offering suggestions for the restoration of the tower and in offering appropriate items for display in such a Tower-Museum. Please contact Mr. R. W. Daubendiek, 504 Center Avenue, Decorah, Iowa, if you have suggestions regarding the tower or if you have some fitting item to be displayed there. DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.

Black Rail in Western Plymouth County. On Oct. 5, 1962, while picking corn in a field near the Broken Kettle Creek, a Black Rail was flushed in front of the picker. This bird flew ahead of me for perhaps one hundred feet and settled into the unpicked corn. I was unable to relocate this most elusive of birds of this area.

The Black Rail is not on the I.O.U. Field Check List but I do see one occasionally when working the fields. The best chance I have had to observe one was the summer of 1959 when I was mowing alfalfa in another field adjoining the same creek. As the unmowed strip narrowed, I noticed a bird much like a very small black chicken would flutter ahead of the cutter bar each time I came around and escape into uncut hay. The last time around the bird fluttered up once and settled back to the ground and was apparently run over by the cutter bar of the mower. I spotted the little bird in the hay and got off to examine it. I examined the stunned creature carefully, noting the characteristics and especially the black plumage decorated with fine white lines. I had to check with Peterson's **Field Guide** to know for sure this was indeed the Black Rail. This particular rail soon recovered from his experience and was able to fly a few hundred feet to the creek where it disappeared.

I see these strange little rails occasionally while farming along the creek. They flush, fly in a fluttery manner for a short distance, and then drop to the ground and out of sight. I am not able to say for sure if the Black Rails I see are resident or migratory. I suspect the one in the alfalfa field was nesting there but can furnish no proof whatsoever.

I shall try to gain more knowledge, if possible, and feel that as a farmer with several fields bordering creeks, I may have better opportunity to do so than most other nature lovers. ELDON J. BRYANT, Route 1, Akron.

Common Loons in Wright County. On November 17th, I was collecting an aquatic plant (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) from Lake Cornelia, north of Clarion in Wright County, for use in my biology class. Upon finishing and driving around the lake, I noticed a large waterbird near the shore. Upon closer examination, this proved to be a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Soon another appeared from below the surface, then another until there were four within the field of my binoculars. As I watched these feathered submarines busily feeding, I noticed two more towards the center of this small lake, bringing the total to six. This was my first record of the loon for Wright County; in fact, the first time I had personally seen one in Iowa, although I have seen them many times in northern Minnesota.

I watched them for half an hour and suddenly found myself transferred in thought to the beautiful canoe country of Quetico-Superior National Forest, listening to their weird yet wonderful call by night and watching their fascinating courtship dances by day. Checking later, I found the loons gone and a Pied-billed Grebe, two female Hooded Mergansers and several American Coots had taken their place on the lake. DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.

Robins in an Apple Tree. The average urban apple tree, which is seldom if ever sprayed for pests, is an ideal spot to watch birds in the fall. Such a tree is the old Delicious apple tree on the neighboring lot to the rear of our home. It is just far enough away so that one does not disturb the birds and yet close enough for fine birdwatching. The fruit is almost worthless, yet in great abundance most years and almost nothing else could attract so many birds.

The first feeders are the migrating Baltimore Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The orioles feed heavily in the tree until mid-September and then thin out and are gone. The grosbeaks are even more interested in the apples and often a dozen or fifteen sit quietly in the tree feeding. Their greatest numbers are in mid-September also, but they linger on in little family groups of three or four until the first of October some years.

The Jays, Robins, Starlings and Grackles are all frequent visitors to the apple tree. The robins, particularly are heavy feeders and often feed on the apples into November. Rarely one sees a Catbird or a thrasher feeding on apples and it is a real thrill to see a Scarlet Tanager feeding on ripe apples as I did on September 15.

Red-headed Woodpeckers also like apples and once in a while a Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen to peck at fallen apples, but another surprise came on September 20, when an immature flicker was seen busily feeding on apples. This bird or one like him came every day there-after until September 25. This writer was ready for anything by now and the sight of an immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on September 23 hungrily sipping at the apples was almost taken in stride. On September 29, another sapsucker with entirely different markings, but also an immature spent part of the day feeding on apples.

While we are on the subject of apples as fine bird food, it would be fitting to add the comments of Mrs. Phil Thornton of Storm Lake, Iowa. Mrs. Thornton writes, "On the gray winter afternoon of February 12, 1962, I noticed a flock of eight or ten larger-than-sparrow sized birds in our Delicious apple tree and on the ground eating the frozen apples. With the aid of binoculars I realized I was seeing Bohemian Waxwings for the first time. They came and went every day for over a week eating frozen apples, sitting in the bare apple tree and eating juniper berries very near the house. At times the flock numbered fifteen to twenty. Two weeks later I saw a few of these same birds several blocks from our home—also in cedars." WM. YOUNG WORTH, 3119 Second St., Sioux City.

Watch that Fall Garden Clean-up! From time to time for many years I have preached to the members of the Iowa Ornithologists Union to not clean up their gardens too thoroughly. If it is becoming monotonous to the older members, please bear with me and remember that many of the newer members might have been apartment dwellers and have moved into their own homes for the first time. This urge to clean up the yard and flower garden to the bare ground is quite strong especially if one has one of those very meticulous neighbors who cleans up each leaf and twig before the mantle of snow hides all.

If one really likes his birds and wants them about the premises in late fall and winter, then don't knock down every stock of zinnia, gallardia, monarda or other seed bearing flower. They might be ugly and unsightly, but when that first little flock of Pine Siskins or American Goldfinches moves in to feed, your reward will be great. Any of the finches will feed on flower seeds and if you are fortunate to be watching at the right moment you might even see a few cute little Common Redpolls feeding in your flower garden.

Over the years this writer has noticed that monarda is about the favorite food of the American Goldfinches. Monarda is nothing more than the old-fashioned bee balm. There are about a dozen species of wild bee balm found in this country and almost every one is familiar with it. In the wild the flowers range from near-white through various shades of pink, red and to

deep purple. Plant breeders have taken the wild bergamot as it is often called and developed some beautiful large flowered varieties in various shades of scarlet and purple.

Monarda will grow anywhere and where given a bit of care will grow nearly four feet tall and can be used for a background or screen. The flowers are showy and being a perennial can be counted on to re-appear year after year. But it is the seeds that I am really interested in. The brown dried seeds are held rather firmly in the head and thus resist strong winds and are a source of food when the finches need them.

As I write this on November 20, 1962, I can see several friendly little American Goldfinches swaying gently on the bee balm stems as they busily pry out the small life-giving seeds. So a tip to all you birdwatchers, if you like bouncy little goldfinches about your garden in the late fall be sure and plant a few clumps of bee balm come next spring. WM. YOUNGWORTH, 3119 Second St., Sioux City.

A Charming Cuckoo. Sometimes, some of the simple observations in nature turn out the most puzzling and yet most delightful experiences that we will ever witness. Such a thing happened to me on October 4, 1960. I looked out in the yard and saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo taking what looked like a bath on the dry, green grass. This bird fluttered and turned and went through all the motions of taking a wet bath. After a minute or two of action it flew up into a low cherry tree and started to preen and pluck just as it would if it was soaking wet.

The cuckoo finally tired of the preening routine and simply flowed out over the small branches and spread its wings and tail and reclined in the warm noonday sun. An occasional peck was made at a feather, but most of the time it just lazed there with its eyes closed. I have watched cuckoos for many years nesting, in flight or feeding, but never before had I witnessed the display of the lovely cinnamon-rufous wing-feathers at their fullest extension. As the sun shone through the bird's wings I sat entranced at the simple, yet lovely color. This sun bath and full display of each wing-feather went on for about fifteen minutes. Finally the bird shook itself and flew off.

Of course my first action was to rush to the grass under the tree. It was just as dry as I had expected at noon on a bright warm day. With two full bird baths within fifteen feet, I will never know why this charming cuckoo chose to pretend to take a bath in the dry grass. I do know that the observation is near the top of my list of birdlore oddities. WM. YOUNGWORTH, 3119 Second St., Sioux City.

Nighthawks in the Autumn. While Common Nighthawks often remain in Iowa until October, the main flights go over in late August and early September. This is not to say that sometimes rather large late flights are not witnessed in early October. One such flight occurred on October 3, 1946, when at least five hundred were counted. This same year, however, the heaviest flight went over on September 5, when between one and two thousand Nighthawks were seen. The fall of 1962 was one of those short seasons for nighthawk migration, with the last nighthawk seen on September 13th, by this observer. The interesting thing was that according to my records the main flight went over on August 29th.

What better place is there than the roof of one's house to watch migrating nighthawks? That is where I sat on that fine late afternoon and watched the birds drift over.

I was just watching an enigma in my long years of bird study and I brought it no nearer solution that balmy afternoon, but I will present a few of the facts. Low flying nighthawks were feeding with Purple Martins and wheeling just over the tree tops much as they do in summer except that they were silent in their flight. These nighthawks were obviously feeding and slowly migrating in flight much as the Franklin Gulls do as they hawk for insects in flight, but ever moving slowly onward.

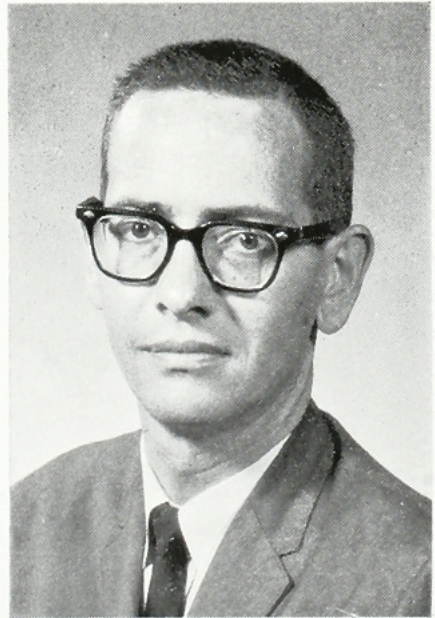
High above, in fact so high that in the soft evening light it took good binoculars and not the naked eye to determine exactly what they were, small flocks of nighthawks flying steadily south. Here was no break for a succulent flying ant or other winged insect, but just the steady beat of wings in direct flight and going somewhere. As stated before these birds were flying high and if it hadn't been for the large white blocks in the dark wings it would have been quite difficult to determine just what kind of birds they were.

As dusk fell it became harder and harder to see the small flocks of high flying nighthawks and I finally gave up my lonely vigil on the ridge pole and descended to a late supper. I had again witnessed one of those riddles of nature, which I will never personally unravel, but which I hope some astute birdwatcher will untangle in the future. WM. YOUNGWORTH, 3119 Second St., Sioux City.

OBITUARIES



PAUL ERRINGTON



THOMAS J. MORRISSEY

Dr. Paul L. Errington

Dr. Paul L. Errington, 60, Professor of Zoology at Iowa State University and an outstanding ornithologist, died November 5, 1962, in Ames. He had been in the hospital a little more than a week and appeared to be recovering from surgery when heart failure caused his death.

Born near Bruce, S.D., and a 1930 graduate of South Dakota State College, he received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1932 and joined the Iowa State faculty that same year. He held the rank of professor since 1949. A prolific writer, he produced more than 200 technical and popular articles and two popular books, *Of Men and Marshes* and *Muskrats and Marsh Management*. Another book *Muskrat Populations* is to be released soon by the Iowa State University Press. He had also been working on a new book manuscript, *Of Predation of Life*.

In 1958-59, Dr. Errington conducted research in Europe on population dynamics of higher vertebrates with the support of the Guggenheim and National Science foundations and the Swedish government. He presented the banquet program at our Cedar Falls convention last May, describing this work. Dr. Errington was the recipient of many awards from scientific and educational organizations in recognition of his work. Last spring at the American Wildlife Conference in Denver, Dr. Errington was awarded the Aldo Leopold Medal by the Wildlife Society. The award is made each year to one person in recognition of the highest achievement and service to wildlife conservation. In 1941 and 1947, he was honored by the Wildlife Society for the outstanding wildlife publication in those years, the only person to have been chosen twice. In December, 1961, he was featured in an issue of *Life* magazine among a group of outstanding American naturalists.

Dr. Errington was a member of Sigma Xi, Wildlife Society, American Society of Zoologists, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow), Ecological Society of America, American Ornithologists Union (Fellow), Wilson Ornithological Society, American Society of Mammalogists, American Society of Naturalists, Iowa Ornithologists's Union, Iowa Academy of Science, the Osborn Club, and Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

Mrs. Errington is the former Carolyn Storm of Brookings, S.D., where her husband attended high school. They have two sons, Peter, an economist in New Haven, Conn., and Frederick, a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Errington was a fascinating companion on a field trip. I accompanied him on canoe trips to Little Wall Lake where he studied the muskrat intensively for many years. All of us who knew him well could not help but be greatly impressed with his knowledge of predation and population dynamics in wildlife. ed.

Thomas J. Morrissey

In the death of Tom Morrissey on September 14, 1962, at the age of 38, bird watchers of both the Davenport and Iowa City areas lost a talented and well loved confrere. He suffered a heart attack and died the same day at Guilford College, Greensboro, N.C., where he had just joined the faculty.

Thomas Justin Morrissey was born March 11, 1924, at Davenport, Iowa, the son of L.M.B. Morrissey and Margaret Hutchinson Morrissey. He attended St. Ambrose Academy, Davenport, and the State University of Iowa, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from that institution. He later taught at St. Ambrose College, Davenport, and was an instructor at the State University of Iowa. More recently he was doing research at the University of Michigan Marine Biological Laboratory and last year acted as technical director for biology on the CBS-TV *College of the Air* in Chicago.

His chief publication was *The Flora of the Pine Hill Prairie Relict*, **Iowa Academy of Science** Vol. 63 p. 201-213. (The cemetery includes one of the few remaining small patches of virgin prairie in the Davenport area). He presented a paper at one of the I.O.U. conventions and was a frequent contributor of field notes to **Iowa Bird Life**, but he figured even more frequently as one of the observers in the notes of others. His interests in nature were widespread, embracing the whole field of biology with special attention to the birds and to botany. He had done considerable work on parasites in birds and other fauna, particularly snails.

As a bird watcher he had a keen ear and a quick eye and years of experience from boyhood on. But he was always conservative in his judgments and preferred to log a "probable" record than one which could be doubted by others, and, as a result, was highly critical of the snap judgments of others. Many birders who came in contact with him are more careful observers because of his influence. Thomas J. Feeney.



RUDOLPH M. ANDERSON

1941 Photo

Dr. Rudolph M. Anderson

We note with regret the passing of Dr. Rudolph Martin Anderson on June 21, 1961. He was born near Decorah on June 30, 1876, the son of a member of the Iowa Legislature. In 1903 he graduated from the State University of Iowa, receiving the degree Ph.B. His Ph.D. was from the same institution and his thesis was **The Birds of Iowa**, published by the Davenport Academy of Science in 1907. This outstanding contribution to Iowa ornithology was

the only complete state work for over twenty-five years and is still the only one in print and generally available.

Dr. Anderson did most of his life work in the field of mammalogy. From 1906 to 1913, he was field agent and assistant in mammalogy for the American Museum of Natural History. At this time he became associated with the Canadian Government, holding many positions, his chief career position being Chief, Division of Biology, National Museum of Canada. A more complete biographical sketch of the pioneer Iowa ornithologist can be found in **Iowa Bird Life**, Vol. 12 p. 4-7. ed.

BOOK REVIEWS

Bird Watcher's Guide—Henry H. Collins Jr.—123p., illustrated with photographs and drawings by Richard Harker—Golden Press, New York—1961—\$3.99 (hardcover).

A book which is just what the title states. No better idea of its composition can be given than the table of contents: becoming a bird watcher, equipment for bird watching, first steps in bird watching, how to identify birds, how to find birds, where to see birds, voices of birds, the sport of bird watching, bird lists, bird censuses, attracting birds about your house, bird houses and baths, cover for birds, planting to attract birds, photographing birds, bird banding, conservation, bird clubs, and references. The material presented is clear and concise. As an example of the coverage given a topic, I shall go into detail on the chapter on bird banding as I am familiar with this area. It tells who bands birds, how this privilege is obtained, and what to do if a banded bird is found. The history of banding is mentioned, as well as examples of long distance and rapid transit recoveries. Methods of capture are illustrated and discussed along with banding reports, and banding organizations are listed. All of the above is covered in six pages, which gives some idea of the completeness and compactness of the book.

I would recommend this book to any beginning bird student, any librarian searching for good bird references for inquiring laymen, and all college and high school teachers in natural science fields. The list of local clubs is poor and of course out of date. Many clubs are left out and cities are incorrect in some instances. ed.

Gamebirds—Alexander Sprunt IV and Herbert Zim—160p. 266 colored illust. by James G. Irving—Golden Press, New York—1961—\$1.00 (paper bound).

A very well done introductory book covering waterfowl, rails, some shorebirds, doves and pigeons, and gallinaceous birds. Included for each species is a description, list of common foods, brief statement concerning nesting habits, local names, size, flight speed if known, range map, and colored illustration depicting both sexes and any detail feature helpful in identification. The common waterfowl foods are listed and some are illustrated. The only shorebirds included are those which are or have been considered game species. The introduction tells which species are considered gamebirds and why, explains the classification and regulation of these birds, and tells something of the research being done on gamebirds, primarily banding. Brief sections deals with habitat improvement, sources for further information, and species now extinct or threatened with extinction.

This book is not only excellent for the hunter or beginning bird student but also for the more experienced field student. It covers its subject matter completely yet in a very easy style. Many facts are presented in a manner which makes them easily accessible, unlike the more detailed and specialized works. It is also much more than a field guide as it presents diet information and background data on habitat improvement, research, etc. The A.O.U. Checklist order is generally followed, but misspellings such as Shoveller are obvious. It is certainly a book which deserves reference by any serious or semi-serious bird student and all hunters. ed.

Arctic Birds of Canada—L. L. Snyder—310p. with 72 illustrations in black and white by T. M. Shortt and 72 distributional maps—University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Ontario, Canada—1957—\$4.75.

An excellent regional work covering the 72 species of birds found beyond the limit of trees in northern Canada. A key to orders and grouping of habitats are presented prior to the species accounts. Each locality mentioned is located on a map of Canada and a section is devoted to avian adaptations for life in the Arctic.

The species accounts comprise the main body of the book. They are detailed and very well done, including an illustration and distributional map, colloquial names, status, habitat, characteristics, and remarks.

Brief statements on species normally sub-arctic which occasionally occurs in the region and accidental visitors are included. A glossary of the more technical terms, partial bibliography, and index terminate this work.

While most readers of *Iowa Bird Life* have not and do not intend to visit this region they would still find this book an excellent source of information on Arctic birds. The book stands above almost all recent state publications produced in America. The illustrations, while in black and white, are excellent and suffice as most species lack color. ed.

The Book of Bird Life—Arthur A. Allen—over 250 illustrations—396p.—D. Van Nostrand Co. Inc. Princeton, N.J.—1961—\$9.75.

This is a very interesting as well as educational book for the ordinary bird lover and student. It has many black and white illustrations as well as colored photographs.

Part I is entitled the Living Bird. This begins with the early history including glacial ages, classification and distribution. Bird communities were interesting, being divided into birds of the woods, woodland borders, fields, orchards, marshes, and shores.

Birds are associated with environment as ground nesting birds, birds nesting in high or low branches, those nesting in holes and those in marshes. Prairie Horned Lark, Robin, Bobolink, meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and American Goldfinch are associated with fields and orchards. Marshes and shores make up the habitat for Mallard, Pintail, widgeon, Wood Duck, rails and American Coot, as well as Red-winged Blackbird. Geese are seen overhead, bluebirds and Tree Swallows flying about as well as many insects, frogs, etc.

The chapter on migration is of particular interest. Most of our birds that do not go south but stay with us like the chickadees, nuthatches, Brown Creepers and kinglets are evidently closely related to European birds. Those that do go south evidently have most of their related species in South and Central America. This includes hummingbirds, vireos and warblers. Water-

fowl, gulls, woodpeckers, Tree Sparrow and Snow Buntings belong to families that are widespread over the surface of the earth. Banding has shown that birds return to the same place year after year and often at the same time. The chapter on courtship and home life of birds tells about the selection of territory, call notes and songs, fighting for a mate as well as display of plumage and courtship dances. The chapter about plumage coloration and change of plumage was most revealing.

Part II, called Methods of Bird Study tells about bird walks, birds heard at various times of the year, the study of habits as well as feeding and song. Bird banding is a method of study which is comparatively new but has made rapid strides toward gaining knowledge on migration and life histories of birds that was previously not known. The final chapter deals with various ways of attracting birds to feeders in the yard and kinds of food that different birds like. An interesting chapter tells how to find and identify nests of various birds.

It is a most enlightening book for anyone interested in birds in the yard, field or park. Mrs. Paula Petersen.

Subantarctic Campbell Island—By Alfred M. Bailey and J. H. Sorensen, Denver Museum of Natural History, Proceedings No. 10—1962—306—8pp., 252 photographs, two maps,—\$7.00, soft cover \$5.50.

A profusely illustrated report, based on field work by the Denver Museum of Natural History expedition, and on the four years' experience of J. H. Sorensen, a talented New Zealand naturalist, as a coastal watcher on Campbell Island. This southern-most subantarctic island of New Zealand is considered one of the remarkable bird islands of the world, as it has five species of nesting albatrosses, three of penguins, and many other sea and land birds.

The book gives an historical account of discovery and field expeditions, and of the geology, vegetation, and life history notes of the interesting mammals and birds which have been recorded through the years. Campbell Island is the main breeding ground of the southern race of the Royal Albatross, the largest of flying birds, and life history notes are given also for the Wandering, Light-mantled, Gray-headed, and Black-browed Albatrosses. Sixty-one species of birds are listed, including twenty-six which have been recorded as breeding. This distant isle is the home of fur seals, sea lions, and elephant seals. Numerous photographs contribute greatly to the value of this publication.

Dr. Bailey, originally of Iowa City and SUI is well known to most I.O.U. members. This is an excellent and well illustrated regional work. ed.

CORRECTIONS

Two notable errors occurred in the September issue. On pages 58 and 59 the old name American Pipit is used for Water Pipit. The book review on **The Kirtland's Warbler** appearing on pages 60-62 was written by Fred Leshner. The editor regrets these errors and hopes the members will correct their issues accordingly.

COLOR PLATE

The color plate in this issue was reproduced from an original by E. W. Steffen of Cedar Rapids which was loaned by William Youngworth. Copies of the color plate alone, suitable for framing, may be obtained from the editor for 25¢ each.

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; "The Bulletin," 1929-1930; "Iowa Bird Life," beginning 1931.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$3.00 a year. Single copies 75¢ each except where supply is limited to five or fewer copies, \$1.00. Subscriptions to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are four classes, as follows: Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$3.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

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