

# THE AUDUBON BULLETIN





# THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

## For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE

CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS — Telephone WAbash 2-9410

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PAUL H. LOBIK, *Editor*, 22W681 Tamarack Drive, Glen Ellyn, Illinois



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ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE SHORE DRIVE, CHICAGO 5, ILL.

Number 106

June, 1958

## The Annual Meeting — 1958

*By* ANNE DOUGLAS BAYLESS

THE ANNUAL MEETING in Decatur, attended by approximately 130 persons, continued the record of other I.A.S. meetings — bigger and better every year. Registration began at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 26, with coffee and doughnuts provided by the Decatur Audubon Society, host organization, in the Decatur Y.M.C.A. Each registrant received an envelope containing a name badge, meal tickets, a map of the Decatur area, and a detailed list of field trips planned for the next day.

The business meeting opened at 11:15 a.m. with Paul Downing, president, welcoming those in attendance. John Helmer, treasurer, presented a report with charts showing how income and outgo have compared in the last five years. He noted that the Society will have a bank balance of about \$1,700 at the end of the fiscal year. Oliver Heywood, first vice-president and finance chairman, told of the books and other literature available from the Society. LeRoy Tunstall, second vice-president and conservation chairman, had brought a quantity of conservation literature and invited those attending to make full use of it. Mrs. Bertha Huxford, third vice-president and education chairman, told of educational work being done through the quarterly *Bulletin*; through the Screen Tour Lectures, and through various low-cost or free material available at the book tables. Elton Fawks, fourth vice-president and extension chairman, invited ideas from the membership on a location for the 1959 Annual Meeting.

Announcement was made of the study completed by Dr. Richard Graber of the Illinois Natural History Survey on the status of Illinois hawk and owl populations through the years, a study bound to prove valuable when the hawk and owl bill comes up for correction in the next session of the legislature. (The protection bill passed by the last legislature has a flaw that must be corrected before it can be enforced.) Mr. Fawks also announced plans to assemble a guidebook to birding areas in Illinois from reports to be published in the *Bulletin*.

Mr. Downing introduced some other members: Mrs. Vinnie Dyke, Mrs. Pauline Esdale, Mrs. Ruth Waller, Dr. Warren Keck, Miss Margaret Lehmann, Mrs. Freda Russell, Mrs. Anne Bayless, and Milton Thompson. Other board members attending included Dr. R. E. Yeatter and John Bayless. Nominations for new directors were presented by Mr. Bayless, chairman of the nominating committee, as follows: Paul Schulze, Chicago; Floyd Swink, Willow Springs, and Raymond Mostek, Chicago. Mr. Heywood, whose term expires, was renominated. The four were unanimously elected. Mr. Bayless tendered a vote of thanks to retiring directors, whose other duties prevented



their continuing to serve: Mrs. Bertha Huxford, Mrs. Vinnie Dyke, and Mrs. Ruth Waller.

The afternoon session opened with a welcome by Myrtle Jane Cooper, president of the Decatur Audubon Society. Mr. Bayless took over as chairman, and presented Mrs. Naomi McKinney of Arthur, Ill., a member of the Decatur Society, who told of a study of owl pellets she initiated while teaching at Atwood. She showed samples of both pellets and the bones and fur they contained, classified as to species. These were mounted on an elaborate display board. A pellet study, she pointed out, proves conclusively the value of owls in controlling mice and shrews.

Mrs. Harry Shaw of Sterling, president of the White Pines Bird Club, reported on a program of putting up nesting boxes for bluebirds. She and Mr. Shaw have a "bluebird trail" north of Elizabeth, Ill., which began with six houses six years ago, and has now grown to 23 boxes. Last year in 20 boxes they had 96 baby bluebirds. From experience in having nests destroyed, they now mount boxes on metal posts protected by pronged steel strips, and put them high enough that they must use a ladder.

Elton Fawks reported on a study he had made on the disturbing shortage of young bald eagles. His counts along the Mississippi river show an average of 28 adults to one immature, where he used to see about the same numbers of each. He pointed out that the young and old birds are easily distinguishable, as the young do not get the white head and tail of the adult until four or five years old. Other eagle experts find the same situation. He quoted a letter from Charles Broley, who bands in the Tampa, Fla., area each year. He knew of only four young eagles there this year, one of which he was able to band.

Mr. Broley said it was his belief that 80% of the Florida birds are sterile. He wondered if it might be from insecticides. He pointed out that thousands of fish were killed on the Gulf coast by insecticide, and that the eagles ate the dying fish. Other reports on eagles, from Canada, the east coast, and Hawk Mountain sanctuary, also show an alarming decline in the young. Fawks concurred with Broley that a careful study of the effect of insecticides on eagle breeding should be made by a responsible agency.

Milton Thompson called on everyone interested in birds to make breeding bird censuses in Illinois this year. He would like to have the material by Sept. 1 if possible. Mr. Thompson expressed regret that last year's reports were so meager; only 39 species were reported on, while Illinois has probably 200 nesting species. He asked the audience to make observations and send them in to him in any form desired.

Mr. Bayless then turned the meeting over to John Helmer, who presided over a session devoted to nature education at our Illinois museums. He first paid tribute to the Chicago Natural History Museum, in which the Society has its headquarters, and mentioned a film, "Through These Doors," telling about the museum and available free of charge to any club. He also mentioned the Chicago Academy of Sciences, which is to undergo a program of renovation. Dr. William J. Beecher, one of our directors, is new acting director of the Academy.

Mr. Helmer also mentioned what influence a museum can have on a



young person, using Dr. R. M. Strong, honorary president of the Society, as an example. As a young man Dr. Strong frequented the Milwaukee Museum from its opening in 1884. He went on to take his doctorate at Harvard, has been on the faculties of 10 schools, and has retained his interest in nature throughout his life.

Milton Mahlburg, director of the Rockford Natural History Museum, told how it is housed in an old mansion on Rockford's "Gold Coast" with the Rock river in its back yard. It is run very informally, and most of the youngsters in town make use of it. The Museum contacts the schools, especially the rural ones, and through it several nature clubs have been formed — the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society, a gem and mineral society, and an archaeology society. It has sponsored Screen Tours for 10 years, and the bird collection includes 1,400 specimens, some of them Herbert Stoddard's work.

Miss Cecilia E. Peikert, director of the Museum at Illinois State Normal University, pointed out that the institution is a part of the university. Although its first responsibility is to the students and faculty, it does try to be of service to the public in many ways. It works with students from kindergarten through graduate school, including student teachers. The museum has a collection of mounted birds, some mammals, and displays on prehistoric life, rocks and minerals, shells, etc.

Reporting on the Illinois State Museum at Springfield, Milton Thompson, assistant director, noted that museums in general are changing tremendously. State-supported ones are relatively few, especially in the natural history field. The museum now has larger attendance in a year (1 million) than the Detroit Tigers, he said. Tours are offered with members of the Junior League acting as guides. Special programs on Saturday mornings attract 1,100 to 1,300 students. The State Museum has a school loan program, reaching 60,000 students a month; the traveling museum, in a trailer, visits rural communities; and the publication, "Living Museum," is sent to 33,000 a month.

Mrs. Pauline Esdale presided to introduce Dr. Thomas G. Scott of the Illinois State Natural History Survey, who gave a report of its history. It began in 1858 with the founding of the Natural History Society and Museum, and later became the State Laboratory of Natural History. In 1885 it was moved from Normal to Urbana. In 1917 the laboratory and the office of state entomologist were combined into the Natural History Survey, with Dr. Stephen A. Forbes as chief. Dr. Scott traced its expansion and paid special tribute to Dr. Forbes. In 1880, for example, he said that annihilation of predators would have no effect on numbers of prey.

Dr. Forbes also was an authority on the insect food of birds. He carried out the first systematic bird censuses. He found an average of 852 birds per square mile in the state in summer. Areas of highest bird populations were orchards, with 3,943 per square mile, and yards and gardens, with 3,418. Dr. Richard Graber is attempting to duplicate some of this early work and compare figures. Dr. Forbes found 520 birds per square mile in the winter of 1906-'07; Graber found 1,469 in 1957. In 1907, summer, Forbes counted 644 birds per square mile; Graber counted 1,403.



Dr. Scott traced the studies made by Dr. Forbes first, and since 1934 by Dr. Yeatter, on the prairie chicken in Illinois. The survey has been doing research on wide row corn culture, with 40 to 60 inches between rows and grass between, which is attractive to wildlife, especially prairie chickens. Dr. Scott suggested the Society might write to Glenn Palmer, head of the State Conservation Department, encouraging the department to carry on with such a project. He stopped his talk long enough for the Society to take action. A motion to write to Palmer to this effect was passed unanimously.

Mr. Tunstall called attention to the drive being made to preserve the Volo and Wauconda bogs in northern Illinois, and said \$18,900 of the \$40,000 needed has been donated so far. He invited all who were interested to go on a field trip of the area June 15 guided by Floyd Swink.

Mrs. Huxford called attention to the Audubon Camps sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Miss Helen McMillen, president of the Evanston Bird Club, told of her plans to attend the Wisconsin Camp this summer. Mrs. Huxford reminded members of the contest the Society is sponsoring for young people, who are invited to submit original essays on bird studies they have made. First prize will be a trip to the Wisconsin Camp.

The evening program was held at the Decatur Club. The program included singing by the Choral Teens of Woodrow Wilson Junior High School. Mr. Tunstall presented a copy of "Reading the Landscape" by May Watts, to Miss Edna Earle Weld, teacher at McArthur High School, Decatur, who accepted on behalf of the school.

The high point of the evening was the color movie on "The Whooping Cranes' Wintering Domain," by Wesley F. Kubichek of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington. He was introduced by Dr. Keck. Mr. Kubichek, a graduate of the University of Iowa, taught at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, and founded the Cedar Rapids Bird Club before joining the Fish and Wildlife Service 27 years ago. He had photographed the cranes when Aransas Wildlife Refuge, near Austwell, Tex., was first opened. He told of spending several months there each fall for the last several years, and his problems in luring the wary birds to his blind. Mr. Kubichek's films were outstanding, showing every detail of the cranes. He also had some shots of some other birds and wildlife of Aransas.

Field trips on Sunday started with chilly, rainy weather, but attracted such a large number of birders that Breeze Hill Farm, Mrs. Russell's home outside Decatur where the various trips converged for lunch, was filled to capacity with 120 persons. The largest number of species, 71, was compiled by the group led by Harry R. Beeson, co-chairman with Mrs. Frank Irwin of the field trip activities. Many birds were found at the farm, where a box lunch was served on the grounds.

The Society wishes to thank all persons who made the Annual Meeting such a success. In top charge as chairman of the committee were Mrs. Russell, for the Decatur Audubon Society, and Mrs. Huxford, for the Illinois Audubon Society. Local committee chairmen for the Decatur Society were Mrs. James Redding, registration; Mrs. Harold Rhodes, social; Mrs. H. J. Snider, coordinator; Mrs. W. S. Burlingame, banquet table decorations, and Mr. Beeson and Mrs. Irwin, field trips.



### Conservation Award

THE FIRST OF WHAT is expected to be an annual series of awards to amateurs in Illinois for outstanding work in ornithology and conservation was made at the Annual Meeting in Decatur April 26. The award was a handsomely lettered, framed citation to be hung on the wall. The following, taken from the text of the award presentation, tells something of the accomplishments of the winner and why he was chosen:

The Illinois Audubon Society is pleased and proud to present its first annual award for outstanding work in ornithology and conservation to Karl E. Bartel of Blue Island, Ill. All members and affiliated clubs were invited to submit nominees for this award several months ago. Mr. Bartel was the nominee of the Evanston Bird Club, though not a member. He was chosen from an impressive field of candidates. As the board of directors read about the qualifications of each one, it was impressed by the great amount of selfless work in ornithology and conservation being done in Illinois.

Mr. Bartel's achievements date back many years and read like the accomplishments of a professional. Karl's formal education may have ended with high school, but he has never stopped learning. He is employed as maintenance repair man for the General Biological Supply House, Chicago, a company for which he has collected thousands of botanical specimens.

His first interest in birds was stimulated in 1928 by his eighth grade teacher, who offered to lead the class on a bird walk. When it became apparent that the walk was going to be on a Saturday, only two wanted to go, Karl being one. He soon began to keep migration records, collect books on birds, and set up feeding stations. He became interested in bird banding after reading about this activity in *The Chicago Tribune*. On Feb. 11, 1933, he banded his first bird, a junco. In all he has banded 38,500 of 159 species; he has had 300 returns and about 250 recoveries. He operates from 100 to 300 traps, and tries to band 1,000 birds a year. In addition to the usual songbirds, he bands sandpipers and great blue herons.

Karl joined the Chicago Ornithological Society in 1932 and was its field secretary for many years; he is a past president. He also is treasurer of the Inland Bird Banding Assn., a member of the A.O.U., the Wilson Ornithological Club, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, and other groups. He has attended all A.O.U. and Wilson meetings since 1936, and it was because he had already committed himself to attend the Wilson meeting, which was held the same week-end, that he was not at the meeting in Decatur. His award was accepted on his behalf by Miss Helen McMillen, president of the Evanston Bird Club.

Karl is active also in the Nature Conservancy, both nationally and in Illinois. Through his sole efforts, Ben Warren of Warren's Turf Nursery was persuaded to set aside 1½ acres of his land as a wildflower preserve, to save a few rare plants that are found there and nowhere else in Cook county. These include the Grass of Parnassus, Queen-of-the-Prairie, Small Fringed Gentian, Sage Willow, and others.

He has taken an active part in the Nature Conservancy's drive to save the Volo and Wauconda bogs in northern Illinois. At his own expense he



helped build a miniature Volo bog for display at the recent Modern Living Exposition Home and Garden show held on Navy Pier in Chicago, and manned the booth for five nights and four days.

One of Karl's other interests is nature photography. At present he has more than 2,100 slides of plants of 275 species, and it is his ambition to record all of the approximately 2,000 flowering plants of the Chicago area in color. He also photographs birds. With his pictures he has prepared seven lectures which he gives to garden, nature, and other clubs.

Karl has been honored in the botanical field by having a plant named after him. A white-flowered form of *Liatris*, it was found by Karl northwest of Gary, Ind., in 1953, and observed again in 1955. The holotype is in the Chicago Natural History Museum herbarium. It is *Liatris cylindracea Michx.*, *forma Bartelli*, technically described as "a varietate *cylindracea recedit floribus albidis*." When he has time Karl spends evenings building banding traps. It is his ambition to be able some day to spend all his daylight hours in bird banding and photography.



## The I.A.S. Fall Campouts

By THEODORE R. GREER

THE CAMPOUT FOR 1957 was held at Olney, Ill., on October 12 and 13. We had excellent weather for the event. Twenty-five registered for the afternoon hikes; 32 were present for the evening meeting. The program was most enjoyable, including slides of various nature subjects. The Olney folks had gone to considerable trouble to make the meeting interesting. Tables contained mounted birds, nests and eggs as well as books and other literature on bird study. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent visiting the home of Robert Ridgway and his burial place. It is most appropriate that he rests amid the beautiful woods he loved so well. Later we tramped through the woods and meadows where he had so often hiked and found better than fifty varieties of birds. Sunday afternoon another hike went to the lake at Red Hills Park. The lake had much to offer in beauty.

If you somehow failed to make the 1957 Campout, now is the time to plan on attending the 1958 event which will be sponsored by the Tri-City Bird Club. This will be held on **September 20 and 21**. Tentative plans are being made to meet at the Y.W.C.A. camp "Archie Allen" just above the Tri-Cities. A worthwhile program is being planned for Saturday evening. A formal invitation will be extended to the Iowa Ornithological Society members to join us in this Campout.

Excellent birding territory is available. River Lock 13 offers splendid sites for bird study as well as Thompson further up. Perhaps the folks from the Chicago area could continue from this jaunt to their home. Possibly a trip to the Joy area may be scheduled where pileated woodpeckers are found. Remember the dates and plan on being with us.

*Enchanted Hill Garden, Joy, Ill.*



## Bell Bowl Prairie

By EGBERT W. and OLIVE E. FELL

BELL BOWL IS a natural amphitheater formed by a bend in the terrace bluff of the Kishwaukee River valley west of New Milford and five miles south of Rockford, Illinois. It was a part of Camp Grant during World War I and was named for General George Bell, the camp commandant. The gravel bluff which extends southeast from the Bowl for one-half mile is about 150 feet wide, the elevation increasing 30 feet between the flat prairie at the base and at the crest of the bluff. These flat areas are in cultivation. The bluff was used for the training of troops in trench warfare maneuvers but it has since been untouched except by an occasional burning. It is now a part of Greater Rockford Airport. The chairman of the board which operates the Airport has agreed that, because of its educational value, the bluff will be used by the Airport only for some essential operation. The steepness of the terrain makes such use unlikely.

This prairie is one of the best preserved in northern Illinois. In physical features and biota it resembles other gravel hill and bluff prairies in the Rock River valley but it has the advantage of being in public ownership, while the others are fast succumbing to road building and urbanization.

The dominant grasses on this prairie are those of mid-height, such as little bluestem, side-oats grama and prairie dropseed. There is an understory of low panic grasses, three-awns and annual dropseeds. Tall grasses are not plentiful; there is some switch grass on the top of the slope extending over the flat prairie, and Indian grass and big bluestem on the lower slope tend to extend over the lower flat area. Beside the grasses there are rare prairie plants which are found on the prairies in the far northwest and which are near their eastern limit here. Among these are pasque flower, old-man-whiskers, false dandelion, downy gentian and the little green milkweed. There are some very uncommon species of grasses and sedges, and southern plants like ruellia and Carolina anemone are found. These rarities with the abundance of common prairie plants and grasses make this an attractive area for botanists. It is used by Rockford school and college nature study classes and it has had some attention from botany and ecology teachers at Northern Illinois University at DeKalb.

Milton Mahlberg, Curator of the Rockford Natural History Museum, and other local nature lovers are familiar with the fauna of the area, but the animals of this strip have had no special study except for the brief attention of the Audubon winter bird count of the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society. It is an ideal setting for horned lark and killdeer, and eastern and western meadowlarks both come here early. Juncos, sparrows, mourning doves and many other birds find grass and other seeds abundant in winter and summer. Cotton-tails, striped and Franklyn ground squirrels, and field mice find that they are not disturbed here except occasionally by a scouting red-tailed hawk.

It is to be hoped, and it seems likely that Bell Bowl bluff will continue for many years to furnish our children's children a glimpse of one type of the prairie that made the Rock River country so attractive even to very early travelers and settlers.

303 Penfield Place, Rockford, Illinois



### Audubon Screen Tours, 1958-59

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY of one of our members, Dr. Alfred Lipsey of Chicago, the Illinois Audubon Society will be able to present six Audubon Screen Tour Lectures this season instead of the usual five. As before, these will all be Sunday matinees, to be presented in the James Simpson theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum at Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive. All programs are free, and the public is invited. Members will receive the usual cards giving complete details early this fall.

October 5, 1958 —	Cleveland P. Grant.....	"Land of Early Autumn"
November 16 —	Patricia Bailey Witherspoon.....	"Kiwi Commonwealth"
January 4, 1959 —	Charles Mohr.....	"Outdoor Almanac"
February 22 —	Howard Cleaves.....	"Animals at Night in Color"
March 8 —	G. Clifford Carl.....	"Secrets of the Sea"
April 19 —	Robert C. Hermes.....	"Animals at Home and Abroad"

### The Earliest Published Article on Illinois Birds

By ORMSBY ANNAN

WERE AN HISTORIAN of ornithology to consult either Cory or Ridgway, he would be led to believe that the first article on Illinois birds appeared in 1853 or 1854. Cory (1909: 740) cites an 1853 paper by Dr. William LeBaron, a physician of Geneva, Illinois: "Observations upon some of the birds of Illinois most interesting to the agriculturist." This appeared in Volume I of the *Transactions of the Illinois State Agricultural Society*. Ridgway (1881: 168, and also 1889, part 1, Vol. I: 36) cites this paper under 1853-54.

Recently I obtained some early volumes of the *Transactions*, and noticed that LeBaron's article was dated, by him, December 12, 1854, and that the *Transactions* were published in Springfield in 1855. Since it is the actual date of publication of a journal which establishes the date of an article, it appears that the earliest article to appear in print, devoted to Illinois ornithology, should be credited to 1855, and not to 1853-54.

Many more people will read Cory or Ridgway than will consult LeBaron's original article. Perhaps it would be easier to find an article earlier than LeBaron's than it will be to correct the impression that published ornithology in Illinois commenced in 1853. Do any of the members of the Illinois Audubon Society know of material earlier than LeBaron's?

1059 Chatsfield Road, Winnetka

- 1909 Cory, Charles B. "The Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin." Field Museum of Natural History, *Publication 131*. Zoological Series, Vol. IX.
- 1855 LeBaron, William. "Observations upon some of the birds of Illinois most interesting to the agriculturist." *Trans. Ill. State Agri. Soc.*, 1:559-565.
- 1881 Ridgway, Robert. "A Catalogue of the Birds of Illinois." Ill. State Lab. of Nat. Hist., *Bulletin 4*: 163-208.
- 1889 Ridgway, Robert. *The Ornithology of Illinois*. Part 1, Vol. I.



SOME CORRECTIONS TO "A DISTRIBUTIONAL  
CHECK LIST OF THE BIRDS OF ILLINOIS"

By RICHARD BREWER

THE FOREWORD TO "A Distributional Check List of the Birds of Illinois" by Smith and Parmalee (1955, *Illinois State Mus. Pop. Sci. Series*, IV: 1) expresses the intent of revising the publication with each reprinting. In view of this, it seems worth-while to place on record some observations which have not been presented elsewhere and to call attention to a few apparent errors and omissions.

Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*. This species is included on the basis of two or more sight records and a specimen taken by Julian Hurter in 1880. The bird was identified as *P. falcinellus* by Robert Ridgway, but Ridgway later decided that his identification was open to question and that the bird might actually represent the White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi* (1895, *Ornithology of Illinois*: 112). He suggested that the specimen be carefully re-examined. This 60-year-old suggestion still seems reasonable.

Brant, *Branta bernicla*. In addition to the single report listed by Smith and Parmalee, there is a record by Dreuth from Lincoln Park, Cook Co., October 9, 1932 (Clark and Nice, 1950, *Chicago Acad. Sci. Spec. Publ.* 8: 12).

Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*. Perna M. Stine has pointed out (in litt.) that the statement by Smith and Parmalee that "Cahn and Hyde (1929) list five sight records of this bird on their trip through southern Illinois. . ." is not correct. Cahn and Hyde (1929, *Wil. Bull.*, 41: 36) list the species with a parenthetical five following the name, but this numeral refers to the habitat in which they encountered the species. Habitat number five is "local situations," in this case "the Great Cliffs bordering the Mississippi." There is no mention of the number of times the species was seen.

Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*. Although this species is marked by an asterisk, indicating "an accidental species included in this list on the basis of a sight record," at least two specimens have been taken in Illinois. Cooke (1888, *U.S. Dept. Agric., Div. Econ. Ornith. Bull.*, 2: 117) has stated that a male Ferruginous Hawk was taken by John A. Balmer at Paris, Edgar Co., on January 19, 1886. A female was found by C. B. Blake in Cook Co., on April 21, 1939, and has been reported by Gregory (1948, *Auk*, 65: 317) as being in his collection.

Gray Hawk, *Buteo nitidus*. This species is not marked with an asterisk, but the only cited evidence of its occurrence is a sight record by Ridgway in 1871.

Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*. Although the Check List mentions only records from around Lake Michigan, Eddy (1927, *Wil. Bull.*, 34: 224) has reported this species from Lake Decatur, Macon Co., for December 1923.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides arcticus*. Ralph M. Eisman has informed me that the observation of this species listed for Illini State Park, La Salle Co., by "Bickett" actually was made at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake Co. The observer, Jack Bickett, has confirmed this statement (in litt.).



Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsoni*. Singing males of this species have continued to be present in the area north of Pomona, Jackson Co., each summer from 1951 to 1957, with the possible exception of 1953 (John William Hardy and Brewer).

Bachman's Warbler, *Vermivora bachmanii*. This species is included in the Check List on the basis of several sight records. There is, however, a possibility that a specimen exists. Ellen T. Smith stated (1941, *Aud. Mag.*, 138: 393) that an individual of this species was taken at Decatur in 1899. Unfortunately, Mrs. Smith cannot now remember her source of information, and I have been unable to find any other mention of such a specimen.

Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*. Although the status as given in the Check List — regular but uncommon migrant — is substantially correct, George W. Cox has informed me that at least one instance of nesting has been recorded. This record is by Pitelka for La Grange Park, Cook Co., June 1935 (1939, *Auk*, 56: 481).

Hoary Redpoll, *Acanthis hornemanni*. The Check List refers to Cory's (1909, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ.* 131: 573-574) quotation of Ridgway (1889, *Ornithology of Illinois*: 232) mentioning specimens taken by Nelson "in the vicinity of Chicago," but neglects to include Ridgway's additional statement that the National Museum possesses specimens from Mount Carroll, Carroll Co., collected by H. Shimer.

Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*. One individual of this species was given to me by a Southern Illinois University student whose name I apparently failed to record. The bird, a female, was picked up dead in a pine plantation near Crab Orchard Lake, Williamson Co., on December 1, 1954. The specimen is temporarily in my possession (number NC 4). In view of this record, the Check List account should be altered to include occasional winter visitors in the southern one-third of the state.

Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus*. James N. Layne saw two Lark Sparrows at the edge of an area of strip-mined land about five miles southwest of Pinckneyville, Perry Co., in July, 1954. On June 9, 1956, a few hundred yards from the location of this observation, I saw a pair of Lark Sparrows with newly fledged young. This record suggests that the species may be considered a summer resident throughout the state.

White-winged Junco, *Junco aikenii*. This Great Plains species is not included in the Check List, although it was reported by David Seal and John Sheagren on a Christmas Count taken December 24, 1950, around Rockford, Winnebago Co. (1951, *Aud. Field Notes*, 5: 135). At least two additional species have been reported from Illinois but are lacking from the Check List. These are the Sage Thrasher, *Oreoscoptes montanus*, and the Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides* (formerly *S. arctica*). Presumably, the authors have felt that Ridgway's statement (1907, *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 50, part IV: 145) that the supposed Mountain Bluebird was actually a discolored female Eastern Bluebird, *S. sialis*, and the decision of Clark and Nice (*op. cit.*: 31) to reject Dreuth's sight record of the thrasher were sufficient grounds for excluding the two species from the Check List. The question arises as to whether a Hypothetical List might not be included in at least one edition of the Check List. Here could be placed such records as



the two mentioned, along with reasons for their omission from the main list. The problem of what other species should be considered of hypothetical occurrence in the state is a difficult one. The obvious solution, and the only objective one, is to include all species not represented by specimens. A more courageous course would be to judge each such species on its own merits, with the more doubtful cases being relegated to the Hypothetical List.

Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*. The occurrence of this species appears to be based only on sight records (one banding record), but no asterisk is used.

Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus*. George W. Cox has pointed out that the number of reports of Lapland Longspurs on Christmas Counts from Rockford (Aud. Field Notes, several years) along with his own observations of the species in Kane and Grundy Counties in February, 1958, probably justify altering the statement of winter range to include the entire state.

I am indebted to those persons mentioned under each species heading who supplied me with helpful information. This note was prepared while I held a National Science Foundation pre-doctoral fellowship.

Department of Zoology, University of Illinois, Champaign

### Bird Records for Illinois — Spring, 1958

By MILTON D. THOMPSON

WE HAVE BEGUN to receive some good reports for our Breeding Bird Census for Illinois this spring. It is especially gratifying that a number of groups affiliated with the I. A. S. have offered to send in reports on a group basis. Along with the reports have come some unusual sight records of birds. One of these came from Mrs. Harry Shaw of Sterling, Illinois on May 2, 1958. Quoting from her letter:

"April 30, 1958, 4:00 P.M. (Daylight Time) two willets were watched feeding in the bayou at Sinnissippi Park, Sterling, Illinois. These were found and identified first by Mr. and Mrs. Max Hagans, and then verified by Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Shaw. I even was able to picture one of the birds while it rested on a log in the bayou. Then they bathed and preened, raising their wings so we could get the black and white pattern. May 1, 1958 — one willet flew over the bayou, calling loudly, 5:00 P.M. (Daylight Time). The Hagans reported this. In my 40 some years of birding, I have never seen willets in this region."

I also have two sight records from Miss Marie Nilsson, 6034 North Maplewood, Chicago 45, as follows: "Approximately 100 golden plovers seen feeding in field of stubble, five miles north of Pana, Illinois (Christian County), at 11:00 A.M., April 28, 1958, on Route 51; observers — Marie Nilsson and Martha Fried.

"Approximately 300 golden plovers seen feeding in field of stubble, eight miles south of Pana, Illinois (Christian County), at 12:30 P.M., May 1, 1958, on Route 51; observers — Marie Nilsson and Martha Fried."

Illinois State Museum, Springfield



## Conservation News and Notes

*By* RAYMOND MOSTEK and LEROY TUNSTALL

THE DUPAGE COUNTY Forest Preserve Commission plans to expand the present Mallard Lake in Bloomingdale Township to an area of 75 acres. President Roy Blackwell announced that the lake, in Bloomingdale north of Schick Road, would be extended east to Cloverdale Road. Toll Road contractors who own 13 acres east of the present lake have offered to dedicate the property to the county in exchange for permission to extract gravel, creating an additional area to be filled with water. The larger lake should be an ideal place for waterfowl and shorebirds.

THE CONSERVATION TABLE at the Annual Meeting in Decatur attracted much attention. Much literature was distributed to teachers and group leaders, as well as to interested members. Mrs. C. F. Russell deserves a vote of thanks for permitting use of her office as a central mailing point for the material used, and also for providing necessary bulletin boards.

THE FOLLOWING ARE some of the many important conservation bills before Congress. Letters to Congress are especially valuable in this election year, and are sure to affect legislation. Where federal leadership is strong, state officials often take action subsequently. Act on as many of these as you can:

**Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission:** This bill creates a high-level unit to evaluate and inventory our recreation resources to provide for wise future planning. Passed in the Senate and now up for a vote in the House. Known as HR-3592.

**Dinosaur National Park Bill:** This bill provides for full National Park status of the present National Monument. Sponsored by Sen. Allott of Colo. and Cong. Saylor of Penna. Bills are still in the Interior Committees of both Houses.

**Chemical Pesticide Research:** Program to determine effects of chemical sprays on fish, birds and other wildlife. One of the benefits of the research would be to learn how to eliminate or minimize damaging effects of pesticides on wildlife. Hearings have been held in committees before House and Senate but no further action has been taken. This bill is known as S-2447 in the Senate and HR-783 in the House of Representatives.

**Wilderness Preservation Act:** Makes it a national policy to preserve a permanent wilderness system in our national parks, national forests, federal wildlife refuges and Indian lands. Wilderness areas now exist by courtesy of bureau and department heads. Also known as the Humphrey-Saylor bill. It would be well to write to Agriculture Secretary Ezra Benson and Interior Secretary Fred Seaton and ask for their support. Various Conservation groups are putting on a strong campaign to have the bill passed at this session.

**Duck Stamp Bill:** Earmarks duck stamp receipts to provide funds for acquiring more waterfowl marshes. Money from the duck stamp tax now goes to many other uses, instead of being used to buy our fast disappearing lowlands. No marshes — no ducks. Known as the Magnuson-Dingell bills.



## Our Bluebird Trail

*By* MRS. HARRY A. SHAW

ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON six years ago, my husband and I stepped from our car into a farm yard near the little town of Elizabeth, in the north-western section of Illinois. A cold March wind was blowing, snow flurries were in the air, old man winter still lingered. Hark! We heard the sweet unmistakable warble of a bluebird; we saw a brilliant male inspecting a pipe protruding from the ground. Yes, he was hunting a nesting site even in mid-March. We looked around us; most fence posts were made of steel, there were no orchards (favorite home sites for bluebirds), there were few available natural nesting places. My husband and I decided, then and there, to start a bluebird trail.

The following week we launched our project by nailing six boxes to the few wooden fence posts we could find. These homes were constructed of pine boards painted gray, and of course made especially for bluebirds, but the lids were hinged so we could view the home life of the inhabitants. That season every box was occupied by bluebirds and most of them sheltered two broods.

In November we collected the houses, cleaned and sprayed them with pyrethrum, and stored them for the winter. This is our procedure every year. Early March found us on the trail erecting the homes again, and that year we put up twelve. Again we had such a successful season that in 1955 we erected nineteen boxes. On our visit to the homes the first Sunday in April we found several lovely completed bluebird nests, and many more partially constructed. We anticipated a bountiful season.

Disaster struck in early May. On our weekly inspection of the trail we found blue wings on the ground beneath a box. We dreaded to peer inside, for we knew what to expect. Yes indeed, there had been a terrific struggle; some predator had captured the female while she protected her babes or eggs. We continued along the trail, and we counted eight dead females.

We were heartsick, and even more so when we heard the plaintive cries of the males who still hovered near their homes. We had attracted the bluebirds, we must protect them! Were there any females left in that neighborhood? Perhaps the males could find a few spinsters. We immediately bolted the boxes to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seven-foot galvanized pipes, and wired these to steel fence posts. As added protection a band of steel prongs was wrapped around each pipe. No predator, not even a snake, could reach the homes now, we felt. Erecting the boxes at this height forced us to carry an aluminum step-ladder and a large mirror on our visits to each home in order to inspect the housekeeping procedures. These visits required about two and one-half miles of hiking — across a gully, up and down hills, over and under fences, through oat and hay fields, and between rows of tall corn. The homes were placed in the open bordering the fields, but with a few trees nearby. We were very careful not to place nests too close to each other — when at one box we could not see the next one clearly. Fortunately, we had four pairs of bluebirds nest in the boxes that summer.



Our efforts in giving extra protection to the bluebirds have been well rewarded. Last year we had fourteen of our twenty homes occupied, and several housed two broods. In fact, we feel there may have been three broods in a couple of boxes as there were tiny babes in the nests in August. As closely as we can figure, and we keep a detailed chart, ninety-six babies left those homes in 1957. We find broods of five young as a rule, and survival has been almost one hundred per cent. Sparrows (English) and wrens were our biggest problems the past season even though all boxes were placed well away from farm buildings. We confess that we destroyed the sparrows, but we allowed Jenny to raise her broods of seven whenever she took over a box. Our aim is to maintain enough homes for all desirable species on the trail. On May 13, 1958, we checked our trail of 23 boxes and found two with 6 young half-grown, and four with 5 young each. Another box had 5 eggs, and two had new nests.

Numerous angles develop from this interesting and pleasurable hobby. A recognized bird bander plans to accompany us this year and band our bluebirds. Occasionally we find white eggs in a nest, and through banding we may be able to ascertain if the trait is hereditary. Often-times when we lift the lid of a box, mother bluebird remains there and peers at us so trustingly — a real thrill! Only one pair has ever shown distrust and dive bombed us when inspecting the homes.

We invite you to come to the hills in Jo Daviess County, to Shaw's Bluebird Trail, to see the harbinger of spring, the symbol of happiness — *The Bluebird* — truly a precious bit of our American Heritage.

1304 Fourth Avenue, Sterling, Illinois

## Dunes Council Asks Federal Aid

By RAYMOND MOSTEK

THE SAVE THE DUNES COUNCIL of Indiana, weary of the apathy and even hostility of the state's officials and legislators, has appealed to the federal government for aid in the protection of the final three-mile stretch of unspoiled lake shore line in northern Indiana.

On Sunday, May 4, U.S. Senator Paul Douglas toured the scenic dunes area, in company with scores of conservationists. Led by Mrs. James Buell, President of the Save the Dunes Council, representatives of the Chicago Ornithological Society, Izaak Walton League of Indiana, Illinois Audubon Society, Friends of Our Native Landscape, and the Chicago Regional Planning Commission inspected the controversial 2,500 acres by Jeep and on foot, and came away feeling that the area in question is even more desirable as a scientific and recreation area than the already established Indiana Dunes State Park, two miles east.

Sen. Douglas, speaking from a Jeep at the railroad station where he was met by a crowd of more than 200, declared that the Midwest should be eager to repeat here what has already been done at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina — namely, to set aside the shore line as a National Recreation Area. He said that public access to lake and ocean shorelines in our country is quickly disappearing. He was encouraged by the suggestion of the Na-



tional Park Service that the Ogden Dunes is worthy of protection by the federal government. However, to obtain passage of legislation in Congress would require mobilization of public opinion. Mrs. Buell immediately announced that the Save the Dunes Council, in cooperation with other conservation and civic groups, would conduct a drive for 1,000,000 signatures to present to Congressional leaders.

The purchase of a considerable portion of the dunes land by the Bethlehem Steel Co. and the National Steel Co. has added impetus to the drive of the Council. As an industrial site, not only would the area be drained of its scenic beauty and recreation value, but air and water pollution would create an adverse affect on the present State Park.

For centuries the winds have been creating high dunes and moving them inland for one and one-half miles. Over 1,000 flowering plants, ferns and trees have been found here, including the orchid, trillium, prickly pear cactus, and a few rare white pines. Over 100 species of birds have been found nesting here. During the migratory season, over 150 other species have been recorded. Floyd Swink, naturalist for the Cook County Forest Preserve District, declared that the area is a "natural flyway."

Congressman Barrett O'Hara of Illinois warned the other day that, "agitation for building a harbor at Burns Ditch has been revived." About 25 years ago, a narrow channel called Burns Ditch was dug in order to drain some of the swamp land behind the dunes to make fertile farms. Now the Rivers and Harbors Lobby is seeking federal funds to create a huge harbor there. Many conservationists feel that an industrial harbor expansion at Michigan City would be more efficient and less costly to the public. For more data about the threats to our seashores, write to National Park Service, Dept. of Interior, Washington 25, D.C., for the booklet, "Our Vanishing Shoreline."

Here is a legitimate concern of the Illinois Audubon Society and other outdoor groups. There will be no dunes to climb, no lake shore line, unless we act. If a group of foresighted Indiana women had not acted to preserve the Indiana Dunes State Park, 30 years ago, this magnificent area would have been lost to bird life and to the people. You can help by circulating petitions to Congress. They can be obtained by writing to Mrs. James Buell, Box 1111, Dunes Acres, Gary, Indiana. Do it now, PLEASE.

2415 N. Washtenaw Av., Chicago 47

### **Please Notice Our New Address**

EFFECTIVE JULY 5, 1958, your Editor's new address will be:

**22W681 Tamarack Drive**

**Glen Ellyn, Illinois**

Mail addressed to us at our old address in Chicago probably will not be delivered. Mail addressed to us at the Chicago Natural History Museum is seldom delivered. *So — please mark your records accordingly.* Also mark your records not to write to your Editor for the next month. He's going to be busy moving into that home of his dreams — a house on a hill near the Morton Arboretum.

*Paul H. Lobik*



## Book Review

THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA. Edited by Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr., with illustrations by John Henry Dick. Devin-Adair Co., 23 E. 26th St., New York 10, N.Y. November 1957. 356 pp., 33 color plates, many line illustrations. \$15.00.

This is probably the most comprehensive volume on wood warblers (*Parulidae*) ever attempted. The title is a misnomer; this should properly be called, "The Warblers of the Western Hemisphere," for that is exactly what the book covers. The list of authors is almost a who's who in American ornithology, including such names as Maurice Broun, Allen Cruickshank, Frederick C. Lincoln, Roger Tory Peterson, Lawrence Walkinshaw, and others. The supervision and the bulk of the writing, however, were by Griscom and Sprunt. Fittingly, Emmett Reid Blake of the Chicago Natural History Museum contributed chapters on "The Warblers of Mexico" and "The Warblers of South America."

Altogether, 90 species are presented, covering all warblers found in the United States and 31 found south of our borders. The purist will be glad to know that the latest nomenclature and classification of the A.O.U. Check-List have been followed throughout. Most species are treated in separate chapters giving general description, habits, field characters, nesting, voice, food, and range, usually shown by a shaded map. There are two chapters of comments on warbler songs based on excellent field recordings.

Color illustrations are reproduced by a six-color offset process which gives a soft and life-like appearance. No attempt was made to keep drawings in scale. Mr. Dick is to be congratulated for his success in capturing on paper the character of a bird — that certain personality, whether pertness, slyness, vivacity, erectness, nervousness, or some other behavior trait, whereby most field observers learn to distinguish quickly between species. We believe that Mr. Peterson was the first to do this consistently.

Altogether, this is a most enjoyable book. It is hardly a field guide (page size is 8" x 10"), but rather a popular reference work, to be savored in the quiet of one's study in the evening, as a review and confirmation of the warblers observed during a long day in the field. We recommend it highly.

Paul H. Lobik, 22W681 Tamarack Dr., Glen Ellyn

## New Members — Spring, 1958

WE ARE HAPPY to welcome the following new members to our ranks. All are Illinois residents; the asterisk (\*) denotes a contributing member.

Mrs. Jane Bergheim, Evanston

Mrs. Dorothy Copeland, Ottawa

Miss Josephine Dunn, Chicago

Miss Edith Edward, Chicago

James L. Hvale, Chicago

Mr. & Mrs. E. Kinnan, Jr., Chicago

Dr. George A. Krueger, Chicago

Mrs. Eleanor Lowrey, Glenview

Charles Mattison, Chicago

Mrs. Lewis B. Pierce, Creston

Miss Ada Probert, Chicago

George P. Rogers, Evergreen Park

\*Mrs. W. A. Rowley, Chicago

Mrs. Ethel Vogt, Chicago



## I.A.S. Committees and Affiliated Societies

Members wishing to help the Society in its work should contact the appropriate chairman of the committee which they are best qualified to aid.

### Finance Committee

Oliver C. Heywood, Chairman, 306 N. Lincoln St., Hinsdale.

### Conservation Committee

LeRoy Tunstall, Chairman, 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton

### Downstate Extension Committee

Elton Fawks, Chairman, Box 112, Route # 1, East Moline

### Editorial Committee; Education Committee

Mrs. Walter S. Huxford, Chairman, 3027 Thayer St., Evanston.

### Membership Committee

E. French Block, Chairman, 1366 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10

### Publicity Committee

Harold Lenz, Chairman, 2241 N. Racine Ave., Chicago 14



*Bureau Valley Audubon Club*, % Mr. Hiram Piper, President  
R.F.D. # 3, Princeton, Illinois

*Cahokia Nature League*, % J. W. Galbreath, Exec. Secretary  
9405 Richfield Rd., East St. Louis, Illinois

*Chicago Ornithological Society*, % Holly Reed Bennett, Secretary  
134 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Illinois

*Decatur Audubon Society*, Miss Myrtle Cooper, President  
445 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, Illinois

*DuPage Audubon Society*, Mrs. Roy J. Lile, President  
408 Pennsylvania Ave., Glen Ellyn, Illinois

*Evanston Bird Club*, % Mrs. Kenneth Anglemire, Secretary  
7441 Ridge Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

*Forest Trails Hiking Club*, % Miss Josephine Halas, Treas.  
215 E. Erie St., Chicago 11, Illinois

*Freeport Audubon Society*, % Mrs. W. C. Stewart, Secretary  
1004 W. Douglas St., Freeport, Illinois

*Garden Club of Evanston*, Mrs. Charles Kelly, President  
210 Davis St., Evanston, Illinois

*Garden Club of Lake Forest*, Mrs. Herman Smith, President  
121 Stone Gate Road, Lake Forest, Illinois

*Benjamin T. Gault Bird Club*, Mrs. Benton Fulton, President  
247 Scott Ave., Glen Ellyn, Illinois

*Illinois Valley Garden Club*, % Miss Thelma Herrcke, Treasurer  
2200 St. Vincents Ave., LaSalle, Illinois

*Lincolnwood Neighbors*, % Mrs. W. N. Hall  
3147 Grant St., Evanston, Illinois

*Little Garden Club of Evanston*, % Mrs. C. S. Speicher, Pres.  
1302 Hinman Ave., Evanston, Illinois

*Nature Club of Hinsdale*, Miss Louise Humphrey, Secretary-Treas.  
128 N. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale, Illinois

*North Central Illinois Ornithological Society*  
Natural History Museum, 813 N. Main St., Rockford, Illinois

*Ridgway Bird Club*, % Mr. William Bridges, President  
R.R. # 6, Olney, Illinois

*Tri-City Bird Club*, Mr. C. C. Hazard, President  
2815 Sheridan St., Davenport, Iowa

*White Pines Bird Club*, % Mrs. Harry A. Shaw, President  
1304 - Fourth Ave., Sterling, Illinois



## THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wildlife conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests and rodents.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and water-courses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS.....	\$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS.....	\$5.00 annually
CLUB AFFILIATION.....	\$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS.....	\$50.00
LIFE MEMBERS.....	\$100.00



### Contributions Invited

*Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor at his home address, 22W681 Tamarack Drive, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.*