

## THE OTTUMWA BIRD CLUB

It is with the thought in mind that the members of the Ottumwa Bird Club and their friends may like to have in writing a record of the first year of the Club that this report of the past twelve months is made.

On February 4, 1943, a meeting was called by Charles C. Ayres, Jr., for the purpose of organizing a bird club in Ottumwa if enough interest was manifest. The meeting, held in the Ottumwa Courier Auditorium, was attended by some forty persons who were in sympathy with the idea.

Without going into a detailed description of what transpired, it is sufficient to say that the Ottumwa Bird Club was organized, a Constitution adopted, dues set at 50 cents and 25 cents per year for adults and school children respectively, and it was decided to hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month in the Ottumwa Courier Auditorium, at 7:30 P.M. The following officers were chosen for the first year: Charles C. Ayres, Jr., President; Catherine Vinton, Vice-President; Mrs. Evon Walker, Secretary-Treasurer.

### Program Review

The following programs were presented during our first twelve months:

February Colored motion pictures and slides furnished through the courtesy of the Iowa State Historical Society with comments by the Club President.

March "Haunts of the Hunted" a colored motion picture furnished by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The film, taken by W. F. Kubiehek, formerly of Cedar Rapids, was very much enjoyed by a large audience.

April "Identification of Our Birds" was the subject of this program presented by Walter D. Baker and Charles C. Ayres, Jr., who used colored pictures projected through a transparent screen to illustrate identifying marks.

Some very clever Bird Houses designed and made by C. C. Ayres, Sr., were also exhibited.

May "The Warblers of Iowa" was presented by the Club President with colored pictures used as in the preceding program. The plates used had been given to the speaker by Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, author of the fine works "Birds of Minnesota."

Plans were also made for the May 9th Census Hike.

June Charles C. Ayres, Jr., discussed "Nesting of Birds of Our Vicinity" and exhibited some nests from his collection.

A report on the Census taken on the hike of May 9th by members of the Club was made by Maude Norris, and Marietta Eighme gave a report on the State Convention of the Iowa Ornithologists Union held at Cedar Rapids on May 16th.

July This program was divided into two parts. Mrs. A. C. Rose of our Club chose for her topic "Why Bother About Birds?" and showed nests of both the Baltimore and Orchard Orioles.

The second half of the program consisted of a paper presented by Maxine Dial on the subject "How to Attract and Encourage Birds." This speaker is also a member of our Club.

August "The Woodpeckers of Iowa" was an excellent discourse given by Vice-President Catherine Vinton.

September Charles C. Ayres, Jr., discussed "The Migration of Birds" and showed his electric lighted maps.

October "Birds of Woody Island" and "Life of the Western Grebe" were two more splendid films furnished through the kindness of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and W. F. Kubichek and Phil DuMont of that Service.

November Walter W. Aitken, aquatic biologist from Lake Wapello, and also a member of our Club presented "The Relationship Between Fish and Birds."

Pearle C. Walker, also of our Club, reported on a meeting in Des Moines which was sponsored by the Des Moines Bird Club, and which meeting she had attended.

December By request Catherine Vinton repeated her previous talk entitled "The Woodpeckers of Iowa." Pictures and drawings were used to illustrate the lecture and the nest of the Downy Woodpecker, a mounted Flicker and eggs of several species were also shown.

January J. Wilbur Dole of Fairfield, Iowa, talked to the Club on the subject "The Flycatchers and Swallows." Mr. Dole is past president and organizer of the Fairfield Bird Club and a member of the Iowa Ornithologists Union.

A report on the birds seen on the Christmas Hike was given by Pearle C. Walker.

Officers for the second year were chosen. Charles C. Ayres, Jr., was re-elected President; Catherine Vinton was renamed Vice-President; and Maude Norris was elected Secretary-Treasurer to replace Mrs. Evon Walker who wished to retire. Mrs. Walker was given a vote of thanks for her past services.

## Results of Field Trips

During the spring and fall and even during the summer hikes were taken by various members of the Club. The spring was very rainy and the day of the Census Hike, May 9th, was no exception. Everybody got more or less damp (to perhaps put it mildly) but that did not seem to prevent them from having a good time and a total of 82 species of birds were observed in the Ottumwa area during that day, 67 of which species were seen within our city limits.

On the Christmas Hike a total of 30 species were seen in the Ottumwa area, among which were several somewhat unusual birds for this time of year. A Catbird, several Mourning Doves and an Eagle were observed. Walter W. Aitken saw the latter at Lake Wapello.

Some of the highlights of the year aside from the programs were:

1. The finding that a Mockingbird nests about a mile south of the Jefferson School.
2. The finding of several Orchard Orioles' nests.
3. The discovery that Cliff Swallows nest on the side of a barn a mile or so below the Cliffland Bridge.
4. The identification of a Kentucky Warbler in the Community Gardens during the fall migration, seen by Charles C. Ayres, Jr.
5. Twenty-seven White Pelicans were seen out at Lake Wapello by W. W. Aitken, C. C. Ayres, Sr., and Charles C. Ayres, Jr., These birds are to be seen at the lake each year in the course of their migration.
6. The surprising increase in membership of our Club which now numbers fifty persons. And the fine group of youngsters that are becoming interested and joining our Club.

## Our Loss

The passing of Walter D. Baker on October 11, 1943, shocked the members of the Club. Walter was an interested member, was well informed and always ready to do his part to promote the success of our Club.

## Acknowledgements

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the following contributors to the success of our organization:

To the Ottumwa Courier and its staff for the use of the Auditorium, and for the publicity which they have so generously given the Ottumwa Bird Club.

To the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Phil DuMont and W. F. Kubichek of said Service for their generous and timely assistance in the matter of programs. We hope at a future time to have both of these men appear before our Club.

To the First Methodist Church for the use of their projecting machine.

To Simmons Jewelry Store for the use of their motion picture screen.

And the entire Club owes its success, as well, to each and every member, guest and friend who attended the meetings, served on committees, offered suggestions and brought in new members and guests. Without that backing the Ottumwa Bird Club would not now be in existence. We hope and feel that this support will continue, for the pleasure and benefits to be received from membership in such an organization are many, and we have, as yet, but scratched the surface.

#### List of Birds

As a permanent record the following record of birds reported by members of the Ottumwa Bird Club during the year 1943 is here set out.

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Lesser Loon               | 27. Red-breasted Merganser |
| 2. Horned Grebe              | 28. Turkey Vulture         |
| 3. Pied-billed Grebe         | 29. Sharp-shinned Hawk     |
| 4. White Pelican             | 30. Cooper's Hawk          |
| 5. Double-crested Cormorant  | 31. Red-tailed Hawk        |
| 6. Great Blue Heron          | 32. Bald Eagle             |
| 7. American Egret            | 33. Marsh Hawk             |
| 8. E. Green Heron            | 34. Osprey                 |
| 9. Black-crowned Night Heron | 35. Duck Hawk              |
| 10. American Bittern         | 36. Pigeon Hawk            |
| 11. Canada Goose             | 37. E. Sparrow Hawk        |
| 12. Lesser Snow Goose        | 38. Eastern Bob-White      |
| 13. Mallard Duck             | 39. Ring-necked Pheasant   |
| 14. Gadwall                  | 40. Sora Rail              |
| 15. Baldpate                 | 41. American Coot          |
| 16. American Pintail         | 42. Semipalmated Plover    |
| 17. Green-winged Teal        | 43. Killdeer               |
| 18. Blue-winged Teal         | 44. Wilson's Snipe         |
| 19. Shoveller                | 45. Spotted Sandpiper      |
| 20. Redhead                  | 46. E. Solitary Sandpiper  |
| 21. Lesser Scaup Duck        | 47. Eastern Willet         |
| 22. American Golden-eye      | 48. Lesser Yellow-legs     |
| 23. Buffle-head              | 49. White-rumped Sandpiper |
| 24. Ruddy Duck               | 50. Dowitcher              |
| 25. Hooded Merganser         | 51. Herring Gull           |
| 26. American Merganser       | 52. Ring-billed Gull       |

53. Franklin's Gull
54. Black Tern
55. Mourning Dove
56. Yellow-billed Cuckoo
57. Black-billed Cuckoo
58. Barn Owl
59. E. Screech Owl
60. Great Horned Owl
61. N. Barred Owl
62. Short-eared Owl
63. E. Whip-poor-will
64. E. Nighthawk
65. Chimney Swift
66. Ruby-throated Hummingbird
67. E. Belted Kingfisher
68. N. Flicker
69. Red-bellied Woodpecker
70. Red-headed Woodpecker
71. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
72. E. Hairy Woodpecker
73. N. Downey Woodpecker
74. E. Kingbird Woodpecker
75. N. Crested Flycatcher
76. E. Phoebe
77. Acadian Flycatcher
78. Least Flycatcher
79. E. Wood Pewee
80. Prairie Horned Lark
81. Tree Swallow
82. Bank Swallow
83. Rough-winged Swallow
84. Barn Swallow
85. N. Cliff Swallow
86. Purple Martin
87. N. Blue Jay
88. Eastern Crow
89. Black-capped Chickadee
90. Tufted Titmouse
91. White-breasted Nuthatch
92. Red-breasted Nuthatch
93. Brown Creeper
94. E. House Wren
95. E. Mockingbird
96. Catbird
97. Brown Thrasher
98. E. Robin
99. Wood Thrush
100. E. Hermit Thrush
101. Olive-backed Thrush
102. Gray-checked Thrush
103. Willow Thrush
104. E. Bluebird Thrush
105. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
106. E. Golden-crowned Kinglet
107. E. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
108. Cedar Waxwing
109. Migrant Shrike
110. Starling
111. Yellow-throated Vireo
112. Blue-headed Vireo
113. Red-eyed Vireo
114. Philadelphia Vireo
115. E. Warbling Vireo
116. Black and White Warbler
117. Tennessee Warbler
118. Nashville Warbler
119. E. Yellow Warbler
120. Magnolia Warbler
121. Cape May Warbler
122. Myrtle Warbler
123. Blackburnian Warbler
124. W. Palm Warbler
125. Oven-bird
126. Grinnell Water-thrush
127. Louisiana Water-thrush
128. Kentucky Warbler
129. Northern Yellow-throat
130. Yellow-breasted Chat
131. Wilson's Warbler
132. Canada Warbler
133. American Redstart
134. English Sparrow
135. Eastern Meadowlark
136. Giant Red-wing
137. Orchard Oriole
138. Baltimore Oriole
139. Rusty Blackbird
140. Bronzed Grackle
141. E. Cowbird
142. Scarlet Tanager
143. E. Cardinal
144. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
145. Indigo Bunting
146. Dickcissel
147. E. Purple Finch
148. E. Goldfinch
149. Red-eyed Towhee
150. E. Vesper Sparrow
151. Slate-colored Junco
152. Tree Sparrow
153. E. Chipping Sparrow
154. E. Field Sparrow
155. Harris' Sparrow
156. White-crowned Sparrow
157. White-throated Sparrow
158. E. Fox Sparrow
159. Lincoln's Sparrow
160. Swamp Sparrow
161. Song Sparrow